



City of Needles, California Request for City Council Action

CITY COUNCIL NPUA HACN

Regular Special

Meeting Date: April 28, 2026

Title: Authorize the Mayor to Sign a Letter of Opposition to Assembly Bill 1678

Background: The San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA) Board of Directors has unanimously voted to oppose Assembly Bill 1678 (AB 1678), authored by Assemblymember John Harabedian.

AB 1678 proposes to remove the existing Metro Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority’s responsibility for extending the Metro A Line (formerly the Gold Line) beyond Claremont and instead create a new entity, the Claremontclair Authority (CMA), to deliver the project from Claremont to Montclair.

While the City supports regional transit investment, AB 1678 raises significant concerns related to local control, financial exposure, and governance. As outlined in the attached opposition letter, the bill would override locally adopted transportation priorities and remove decision-making authority from SBCTA and other affected local agencies.

The proposed structure could expose local agencies to substantial financial risk by potentially requiring the transfer of assets without adequate protections and limiting the ability of local jurisdictions to negotiate operations and maintenance agreements prior to project delivery. Additionally, the bill may pre-commit local agencies to long-term operational funding obligations without defined terms or cost controls.

AB 1678 also creates governance concerns by allowing external agencies to review and influence project decisions while limiting meaningful oversight by local jurisdictions directly impacted by the project. These provisions raise broader concerns regarding accountability, fiscal responsibility, and the precedent of State-directed project delivery without local approval.

Given these concerns, SBCTA is requesting member agency support in opposing AB 1678 to preserve local control over transportation planning decisions and protect regional financial resources.

Fiscal Impact: None. This action does not commit City funds.

Environmental Impact: None.

Recommendation: Authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of opposition to Assembly Bill 1678.

Submitted By: Patrick Martinez, City Manager

City Manager Approval: Patrick J. Martinez

Date: 4/24/2026

Other Department Approval (when required): _____

Date: _____