



June 6, 2025

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Scott Wiener
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8620
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Steve Bennett
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 4
1021 O Street, Suite 4710
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Laura Richardson
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee 5
1021 O Street, Suite 7340
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Strong Opposition to Cuts to Zero-Emission Transit Buses

Esteemed Budget Committee leaders,

We write to you as environmental, health, and community advocates. We are collectively and individually committed to expanding adoption of zero-emission transit buses, with robust workforce standards, so that our communities can breathe clean air and enjoy family-sustaining, high-wage careers.

We wish to express our strong opposition to the Governor’s proposal to cut \$201.1 million in funding from Los Angeles Metro’s Zero Emission Transit Capital Program (ZETCP) in the FY 25–26 budget. As part of last year’s budget agreement, Metro was set to receive \$320 million in ZETCP funding. To date, Metro has received \$119.5 million of that allocation, which has been used to advance Metro’s transition to zero-emission buses. The Governor’s proposal would slash funds that Metro expected to receive over the next two years—funds that are critical to the deployment of zero-emission transit buses and charging infrastructure in Los Angeles. The proposal would also slash future funding for other key projects in Los Angeles County, such as the UCLA/ Westwood Zero Emission Transit Service Expansion and the NextGen and Zero Emission Bus Implementation Program.

The proposed cuts will have a profoundly negative impact on Metro’s ability to follow through on its commitments to the health of our communities. Angelenos are exposed to 60 percent more vehicle pollution than the California state average. Metro’s fossil fuel powered buses emit dangerous pollutants

like smog-forming nitrogen oxides (NOx) and particulate matter that harm our health, causing asthma attacks, respiratory and cardiopulmonary diseases, and premature deaths. Those who use public transit most often—people of color and low-income households, and particularly children, the elderly, and those without access to a car—are at higher risk. Fortunately, zero-emission technologies are here.

According to Metro, the **transition to a zero-emission bus fleet will eliminate 86 percent of harmful tailpipe gases in Los Angeles County** from now to 2050, adding up to approximately \$223 million in public health savings.

Additionally, the proposed cuts will compromise Los Angeles’s ability to show the world climate leadership when it hosts the 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games, particularly in light of the uncertainty around \$3.2 billion in federal funding that the city requested to fund transportation projects leading up to the Games.

Every summer, blankets of smog envelop our region and make it hard for our communities to breathe. Zero-emission buses will be crucial during the period of increased ridership in Summer 2028. This is also an important opportunity to ensure that the Games benefit Angelenos with good jobs and long-term air quality improvements. Over 440 Olympians have called for prioritizing sustainability, noting in a March 2025 letter to the International Olympic Committee that “[t]he terrible LA wildfires couldn’t have been clearer: the time is now to set a course for a safe, bright future.”

Now, more than ever, it is imperative that California remains committed to fully funding the essential transition to zero-emission public transit buses to protect the health of our communities. We appreciate your consideration and support of this important program. If you have any questions, please contact Ada Waelder (Earthjustice) at awaelder@earthjustice.org.

Sincerely,

Candice Youngblood
Earthjustice

Jakob Evans
Sierra Club California

Adrian Martinez
**LA County Electric Truck & Bus
Coalition**

Jocelyn Del Real
**East Yard Communities for
Environmental Justice**

Martin Barrera
Jobs to Move America

Suzanne Hume
CleanEarth4Kids.org

Chance Cutrano
Resource Renewal Institute

Janet Cox
Climate Action California