SENATE FLOOR ALERT

SB 9 (Oppose unless amended)

We, the above-named environmental, transportation, housing and social justice organizations, respectfully urge you to vote “no” on SB 9, unless it is amended to remove both the requirement that 70% of TIRCP funds go only to projects over $100 million in size and the priority given to projects that receive additional nonstate funding.

These requirements would dramatically curb the ability for disadvantaged communities and other low-income communities to compete for TIRCP funds and fund transit projects that benefit the vast majority of Californians.

Reasons to vote “no” on SB 9:

- Very few transit projects, statewide, are projects of over $100 million. Most projects, especially improvements to bus and shuttle service, pedestrian and bicycle accessibility and safety, are implemented at far lower costs — saving money while reducing greenhouse gases and benefiting many more Californians. SB 9 would make them ineligible for 70% of TIRCP money, regardless of their ability to reduce GHG’s;

- Many communities around the state where new, low-cost transit service could best benefit Californians simply do not have the capacity to fund such large programs with local dollars. Because they are too poor, SB 9 would give them a lower priority;

- The size of a project doesn’t relate to its ability to reduce greenhouse gases. A number of large transit projects have shown minimal increases in ridership, while many small or medium-sized projects (such as many transit pass programs) have resulted in dramatic increases in ridership.

Unfortunately, by requiring that 70% of TIRCP funds only go to projects of over $100 million, and giving priority to those projects receiving nonstate funding, SB 9 would create too high a hurdle for most communities, and eliminate from eligibility many projects within disadvantaged communities who currently lack the funding for even smaller projects that provide the most benefit to low-income, working-class Californians.

Please vote “no” on SB 9.