

Assembly Bill No. 577

CHAPTER 92

An act to repeal Sections 30648 and 130265 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to transportation.

[Approved by Governor July 8, 2014. Filed with Secretary of State July 8, 2014.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 577, Nazarian. Rail construction: County of Los Angeles.

Existing law prohibits the construction of a mass transportation rail project, other than as a subway, within a specified corridor within the San Fernando Valley area of Los Angeles, and imposes other conditions in that regard. Existing law also imposes certain requirements on the construction phasing of a mass transportation rail project between the San Fernando Valley and downtown Los Angeles.

This bill would repeal these provisions and state the intent of the Legislature.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to give local residents the flexibility needed to address the growing demands of public transportation in the greater San Fernando Valley by allowing the installation of above-ground rail transit along the Los Angeles Metro Orange Line.

(b) Currently, the Los Angeles Metro Orange Line runs on a dedicated bus route known as a bus rapid transit system. When bus rapid transit was determined to be the preferred alternative, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority estimated that Orange Line ridership would average 16,000 riders on weekdays. As of September 2012, average ridership was 31,787, nearly double the initial estimate. It is evident that the San Fernando Valley has outgrown this bus rapid transit system. The greater San Fernando Valley needs a rail system on par with other parts of the region in order to transport a larger number of riders quickly, efficiently, and cost effectively.

(c) By repealing the ban on light rail installation along the Orange Line, local residents will be able to take the first step toward a 21st Century transit system, which will lead to greater connectivity to other transportation lines throughout Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley.

SEC. 2. Section 30648 of the Public Utilities Code is repealed.

SEC. 3. Section 130265 of the Public Utilities Code is repealed.

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