

From: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS-Supervisors](#)
Cc: [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Public comment on items 1 & 2 on special Board agenda 8/7/2020
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-----Original Message-----

From: Bill Hough <psa188@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 8:55 AM
To: Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
Subject: Public comment on items 1 & 2 on special Board agenda 8/7/2020

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I am horrified that Caltrain is proposing ANOTHER sales tax increase. Vote NO. Over the last several elections, voters in the Bay Area have passed numerous taxes and fees for transportation, which are never enough. Every election, politicians are back for more.

It is time to reconsider transportation finance. People are seriously hurting from the never-ending shutdowns and the last thing we need right now is another bump in the sales tax. When the virus scare began, the congestion problem went away when companies began encouraging staff to work from home at least part of the time. Let's encourage more working at home when the virus scare is over. This tax would not be necessary if there were not as much demand.

These regressive taxes contribute into making the Bay Area a horribly expensive place to live; especially for people of modest means, who must pay the greatest percentage of their income in these regressive taxes and fees. Each increase by itself does not amount to much, but the cumulative effect is to add to the unaffordability of the region. The tax proposal fails to take into account that residents are taking an economic hit from the never-ending lockdowns. Recommending a sales tax increase during these difficult times is simply tone deaf. Since the shutdowns began, government has shown little sympathy to residents who have been ruined financially.

A better idea is to do a top-to-bottom review of Caltrain's spending and figure out how they can participate in the sacrifices demanded of normal residents. If you feel Caltrain must have more money despite increased working from home, the solution is diverting existing funds from the overpriced BART extension to San Jose (eliminate the Santa Clara portion and/or expensive tunneling alternatives) or high speed rail. Better yet, raise taxes on the rich tech companies that are responsible for the congestion problem. Either way, stop the sales tax increases.

Please vote to make sure this awful idea gets nipped in the bud. At the very least, make sure the tax has a "sunset date" so we are not stuck with this forever.

If you feel Caltrain must have more money despite increased working from home, please consider raising taxes on the rich tech companies that are responsible for the congestion problem.

William Hough