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Contact: Kathryn Phillips—916-893-8494 or [Kathryn.Phillips@sierraclub.org](mailto:Kathryn.Phillips@sierraclub.org)

### **Governor Vetoes Bill to Identify Funding for Transit; Environmental Group Calls for Governor to Offer a Solution**

**Sacramento, CA** — Sierra Club California called on Governor Jerry Brown to offer a solid solution to California's transit funding crisis, today, as the governor vetoed AB 650 (Blumenfeld).

“The Governor's veto is disappointing, especially since he offers no real alternative,” said Kathryn Phillips, Director of Sierra Club California. “He punts to the legislature and Caltrans—an agency that, nine months into his administration, still doesn't have an appointed director.”

AB 650 would have created a 12-member task force of volunteers, including two members of the legislature, to develop a report outlining California's transit needs, the costs of meeting the needs, and—most importantly—how to fund them. The task force would have drawn on existing reports, public testimony, and analyses commissioned from experts on transit funding. The bill required no general fund dollars: the task force would have been staffed by Caltrans and its travel and staffing costs would have been funded by existing funds already devoted to transit issues.

“This bill had broad support. Business interests, farming interests, environmentalists, public health advocates and transit agencies were among those who supported it,” said Phillips. “We have all watched the decline of transit funding, and we all recognized that we need a solution.”

Since the 2008 economic downturn, funding for local transit agencies around the country have declined as city and county governments have cut support to balance budgets. Drivers and conductors have been laid off and routes have been cut. This has occurred as gasoline and other costs of living have risen, leaving commuters looking for alternatives to driving autos to work.

“Transit is an essential tool for cutting tailpipe pollution in California and reducing traffic congestion,” Phillips said. “Service reductions have made it harder for the state's residents who want to shrink their carbon footprint to do so by switching to cleaner transportation. We had hoped AB 650 would help reverse the trend and help us find solutions to restore and improve Californians' transit options.

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