

ATTACHMENT

For Item

#22

**Tuesday,
March 15, 2022**

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATION RECEIVED BY THE
CLERK OF THE BOARD**

DISTRIBUTED 03/14/2022



San Diego East County Economic Development Council

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Hwy
San Diego, CA 92101

03/14/22

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

The East County Economic Development Council is writing in support of the proposal to temporarily suspend the state gas tax. This issue is scheduled to be considered by the Board during your March 15th meeting. With soaring gas prices, increasing utility costs, skyrocketing housing costs, and the rising cost of consumer goods due to inflation, many San Diegans are struggling, now more than ever, to afford basic needs. This includes many of our seniors, living on fixed incomes, who struggle to pay their monthly bills.

The war in Europe is driving up gas prices throughout the country and California residents are experiencing the most exorbitant rates in the nation. During the past few weeks, San Diego County recorded its highest average gas prices in history – topping the \$5 per gallon mark - and has continued to see additional increases almost daily. To alleviate the financial burden resulting from the climbing gas prices in California, a temporary suspension of the \$0.51 per gallon state gas tax is necessary.

The East County Economic Development Council has been at the forefront of economic development, advocating for local businesses, and stimulating investment in East County. This mission has become more challenging to achieve with the recent rise in gas prices. The increased price of gas has disproportionally affected residents of East County, which is primarily made up of people who have no alternative but to commute to work via a car. A significant number of small businesses located in East County are members of the "toolbelt" workforce and must use a vehicle to perform their job, and as a result, these businesses are experiencing a heavy burden placed upon them by the rising costs of gas.

The State is projected to have a surplus of over \$50 billion this year. By returning a portion of these funds to taxpayers, in the form of a temporary gas tax suspension, the State can help reduce the financial strain posed by record high gas prices while continuing to maintain our roadways.

Again, the East County Economic Development Council supports the proposed suspension of the state gas tax, for a one-year period and urges the Board of Supervisors to advocate for this relief at the state level. We strongly urge you to vote yes on the state gas tax suspension when it comes before the Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JSly".

James Sly
CEO, East County Economic Development Council

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