

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

April 23, 2026

TO: SBCCOG Board of Directors
FROM: SBCCOG Steering Committee
SUBJECT: Metro Board Governance Structure

BACKGROUND

Los Angeles County voters approved Measure G in 2024 that created an elected Chief Executive Officer (effective 2028) and expanded the Board of Supervisors from five to nine (effective 2032 following the 2030 Census and redistricting). Metro is reviewing its Board composition as the County's governance evolves. Metro was created by state law that merged the Southern California Rapid Transit District and the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission in 1993, and any changes to the Metro Board composition must be approved through state legislation. Metro recently created an Ad Hoc Board Composition Committee to guide a locally informed recommendation for any possible changes to Metro's governance. Initially, subregions did not have a voice on this ad hoc committee, but following pressure from the councils of governments, Metro added a seat. Terry Dipple, Executive Director of the Las Virgenes-Malibu Council of Governments, represents COGs on the ad hoc committee.

ANALYSIS

Currently, Metro's Board is comprised of 13 voting members and one non-voting member:

- 5 seats for Los Angeles County (1 per Supervisor)
- 4 seats for the City of Los Angeles (1 seat for the Mayor + 3 appointees)
- 4 seats for the remaining 87 cities in LA County (South East/Long Beach Sector, Southwest Corridor sector, North County/San Fernando Valley sector, San Gabriel Valley sector)
- 1 non-voting seat appointed by the Governor (traditionally the Director of Caltrans District 7)

LA County's population is just over 10 million people, with the City of Los Angeles representing about 3.87 million of those people. Approximately 1 million people live in unincorporated LA County, meaning the remaining 5-5.5 million people live in the other 87 cities in the County. Those 87 cities are directly represented by only 4 of the 13 Metro Board seats today. This means that about half of the County's population is only directly represented by one third of the Metro Board.

Although Measure G created more Supervisors, it did not create more LA County residents needing representation on the Metro Board. There is no rationale for the County's governance change triggering an expansion of the Metro Board. The elected County CEO should also not receive a dedicated seat on the Metro Board nor have their own appointees. The Board of Supervisors should have to choose which five of its nine members it wishes to have on the Metro Board, just like the 87 cities choose which four representatives they want to be represented by.

SBCCOG staff does not believe changes to the County's governance structure necessitates an expansion of the Metro Board, particularly if it further diminishes the proportion of city representation.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend the Board of Directors oppose any changes to the Metro Board governance structure and authorize SBCCOG staff to prepare a letter for the Chair's signature to submit to Metro and its ad hoc committee on Board Composition.

Attachment: Draft Letter to Metro



SOUTH BAY CITIES
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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April 23, 2026

Hon. Fernando Dutra, Chair
Metro Board of Directors
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Opposition to Changes to Metro Board Governance

Dear Chair Dutra:

On behalf of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) Board of Directors, I am writing to express our opposition to any changes to the governance structure of the Metro Board of Directors. As Metro's Ad Hoc Board Composition Committee evaluates changes, the SBCCOG strongly disagrees that Measure G necessitates an expansion of the Metro Board.

When Measure G was approved by LA County voters, it did create new Supervisorial seats, but it did not create more residents requiring representation. LA County's population is approximately 10 million but it is not projected to increase as Measure G is implemented. In fact, several projections indicate that the County population is expected to decline, with long-term figures suggesting a loss of more than 1 million people over the next 30-40 years.

Excluding the City of Los Angeles, the remaining 87 incorporated cities in the County are directly represented by only four of the 13 Metro Board seats today. This means that about half of the County's population is only directly represented by one third of the Metro Board. The LA County Board of Supervisors should have to choose which five of its nine members it wishes to have on the Metro Board, just like the 87 cities choose which four representatives they want to be represented by. Additionally, there should not be an additional dedicated seat for the County's future elected Chief Executive Officer.

In summary, the SBCCOG opposes the idea that changes to the County's governance structure requires an expansion of the Metro Board, particularly if it further diminishes the proportion of city representation. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact SBCCOG Executive Director, Jacki Bacharach, at (310) 371-7222.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Suarez
Chair, SBCCOG Board of Directors
Councilmember, City of Lawndale

CC: Metro Board of Directors
Stephanie Wiggins, Metro CEO
Los Angeles County COG Executive Directors

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