



January 22, 2020

The Honorable Governor Gavin Newsom
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: California Transportation Commission Appointments

Dear Governor Newsom:

Thank you for the two new appointments you made this year to the California Transportation Commission (CTC). We appreciate you taking these initial bold steps ensuring that our state's transportation decisionmakers better reflect our climate, equity, and sustainability goals and mandates. However, there is still much more work to be done – especially for our most vulnerable and marginalized low-income communities of color as they remain almost exclusively outside the purview of the CTC. Moreover, it is clear that the CTC remains a state agency under your authority that directly conflicts with your stated priorities of overhauling the transportation sector, while ensuring environmental justice. Your CTC appointment authority is a concrete way to meet your commitments of decreasing carbon **and** inequality.

This letter comes from a place of grave concern – that without a community-engaged and innovative CTC, California will fail at meeting its vital climate, social equity, and public health goals. Despite your two recent appointments, the CTC needs more leaders who can speak from and for communities that are experiencing the dire consequences of direct and indirect vehicle-caused pollution and its negative social costs. The CTC needs leaders who understand the tremendous benefits of multi-modal transportation, and the needs of core transit-dependent populations.

The CTC's limited leadership on not only climate and air quality issues, but also environmental and transportation justice, is a critical signal that commissioner diversity and expertise is lacking. Representation on the existing commission is failing our state. California needs commissioners

with the following values and experience in order to meet the state's climate, equity, and health goals:

- Strong commitment to transportation justice¹ and improving our transportation system for low-income and communities of color, including access, mobility, and transportation-based pollution burden;
- Strong understanding of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission impacts, and related vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction strategies, and the connection to planning and implementation of the transportation network to meet state targets;
- Deep understanding of the needs of core transit-dependent populations, and the benefits of multi-modal transportation including walking and biking;
- Knowledge of the impacts of limited transportation options and long commute times, especially as they relate to socio-economic factors and social mobility.

We strongly urge you to take this opportunity to help the state meet our state goals by adding more commissioners that represent these viewpoints. **To this end, we are recommending six individuals (please see attached as Appendix A, 2020 CTC Commissioner Candidates).**

All six individuals have applied online using the Appointments Application; we urge you to learn more about each of them and we offer any supplementary support you might need to get to know them and what they would bring to the CTC. We endorse these individuals for their wide-ranging transportation expertise – specifically those areas mentioned above that focus on environmental and transportation justice, public health, and sustainable modes² of transportation.

Despite the strong appointments you have made in the state transportation sector, in addition to Executive Order N-19-19, the transportation sector continues to be a major blind spot and requires significant transformation.³ California has ambitious climate and equity goals but has yet to attempt a more necessary transformation in the way the state plans, invests, and implements our transportation system.⁴ We have seen almost no action to remedy long-standing injustices maintained and perpetuated by our state's transportation planning, budgetary, and policy decision-making.

¹ Transportation justice entails an affordable, accessible, sustainable, clean, efficient, and safe transportation system that provides the greatest mobility and safety benefits and other co-benefits to our most vulnerable residents, while protecting them from harm. It requires that a fair share of transportation funding be set aside to meet the needs that underserved and overburdened communities identify as priorities, and that transportation investments generally avoid harming those communities.

² Current CTC commissioners' understanding of and support for sustainable modes of transportation is limited to single-occupancy electric vehicles, but we know from CARB's *2017 Scoping Plan Update* and recent *2018 Progress Report of California's Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act* that electric vehicles are insufficient to meet environmental goals. Therefore, we define sustainable modes of transportation as necessarily including non-single-occupancy vehicle modes, such as walking, biking, carpooling and public transit -- all modes which are severely underrepresented on the CTC.

³ We are encouraged by recent changes in direction. However, these changes are solely insufficient in terms of actually transforming the way transportation funding is allocated which is significantly under the control of the CTC.

⁴ This has been most notably discussed in detail by the state's Air Resources Board (ARB) in its publication of the *2018 Progress Report of California's Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act*, mandated by SB 150 (Allen). See here: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2018-11/Final2018Report_SB150_112618_02_Report.pdf

It is well documented that the majority of our state's GHG emissions and air pollution are from mobile sources (i.e. the transportation sector) that disproportionately harm low-income populations and people of color. Now is the time to think more broadly about transforming transportation policy decision-making. **We desperately need commissioners who understand the climate and air quality impacts of our transportation investments and who are willing to reassess how transportation decisions are made and funded.**

If we want to achieve our state's ambitious climate and equity goals, we need coordinated, holistic state action. **Your appointment authority on the CTC can continue to provide significant leadership on climate change, air quality, and social, economic, and environmental justice.** Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. We look forward to contributing our experience and expertise to this very important process.

Sincerely,

Jared Sanchez, Senior Policy Advocate
California Bicycle Coalition

Bryn Lindblad, Deputy Director
Climate Resolve

David Diaz, Executive Director
ActiveSGV

Bill Magavern, Policy Director
Coalition for Clean Air

Richard Marcantonio, Managing Attorney
Public Advocates Inc.

Chanell Fletcher, Director
ClimatePlan

Esther Rivera, Deputy Director
California Walks

Jonathan Matz, California Senior Policy Manager
Safe Routes to School National Partnership

Chione Flegal, Managing Director
PolicyLink

Joshua Stark, State Policy Director
TransForm

John Yi, Executive Director
Los Angeles Walks

Matthew Baker, Policy Director
Planning & Conservation League

Veronica Garibay, Co-Director
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Cc: Ronda Paschal, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor
Stuart Thompson, Chief Deputy Appointments Secretary, Office of Governor
Veronica Ortiz-Torres, Deputy Appointments Secretary, Office of Governor
David Kim, Secretary, California State Transportation Agency
Toks Omishakin, Director, California Department of Transportation
Kate Gordon, Director, Office of Planning and Research
Susan Bransen, Executive Director, California Transportation Commission

Appendix A. 2020 CTC Commissioner Candidates⁵

Inland Valley

Penny Newman

Founder, Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCA EJ)

CTC Appointment Application ID: 78398

Penny Newman is the Founder and recently-retired Executive Director of the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCA EJ), a non-profit, grassroots, base-building organization working on environmental health and justice issues in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. She retired in March of 2018 after 40 years of service.

Penny's professional education is in Speech and Language Pathology with an emphasis in neuropathology. She earned her Associate of Arts degree (with Great Distinction) from Riverside Community College and in 1981 received her Bachelor of Science degree (with Honors) in Communicative Disorders from California State University at Fullerton.

In recent years, Penny has been active in addressing issues of equity, climate change/air quality, land use, and transportation. With the expanding population into the Inland Valleys the competing issues of air quality/climate change, transportation and land use have resulted in several crises in our region and state. The lack of living wage jobs has created a crisis in the availability of affordable housing; moving people from one place to another to connect housing and jobs has deadlocked our freeway system; and the emissions from cars and trucks from the ever-growing logistics industry are literally making people sick.

She has served on many public policy forums from the South Coast Air Quality Management District's Home Rule Advisory Committee; California Freight Advisory Committee for the Department of Transportation; California Air Resources Board Environmental Justice Advisory Committee; and co-chair of the City of Jurupa Valley's General Plan Advisory Committee. Penny was key in passing an Environmental Justice Element in the General Plan for the City of Jurupa Valley, only the second in the state. She went on to write and advocate for an EJ Element as a required element in General Plans statewide.

Los Angeles Area

Marlon G. Boarnet

Professor and Chair, University of Southern California

CTC Appointment Application ID: 78374

⁵ Candidates are listed by geographic region they represent and then in alphabetical order by last name.

Marlon Boarnet is Professor of Public Policy and Chair of the Department of Urban Planning and Spatial Analysis in the Sol Price School of Public Policy at the University of Southern California. Prior to that appointment, he served as Vice Dean for Academic Affairs in USC's Price School. Boarnet also served as Director of Graduate Programs in Urban Planning and Development at USC Price from 2012 through 2015, directing one of the nation's largest and oldest Master of Planning degrees and directing the Ph.D. in Urban Planning and Development.

His research focuses on land use and transportation, links between land use and travel behavior and associated implications for public health and greenhouse gas emissions, urban growth patterns, and the economic impacts of transportation infrastructure. He has ranked among the top twenty-five most cited U.S. planning scholars for the past three years. He is a fellow of the Weimer School of the Homer Hoyt Institute for Real Estate, and he is a fellow of the Regional Science Association International. He is vice-president and president-elect of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning. Boarnet has advised California state agencies on greenhouse gas emission reduction in the transport sector, the World Bank on transportation access as a poverty reduction tool, and numerous public and private entities.

Boarnet has published over 80 articles, book chapters, and non-book-length monographs in scholarship journals and outlets. He has been principal investigator on over two million dollars of funded research, supported by agencies that include the U.S. and California Departments of Transportation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the California Policy Research Center, the California Air Resources Board, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Boarnet's academic web page is at: <http://priceschool.usc.edu/marlon-boarnet/>.

Craig Martinez
Program Manager, The California Endowment
CTC Appointment Application ID: 73787

Craig Martinez, MPH, DrPH, joined The California Endowment in May 2012 as a program manager tasked with supporting policy and system change efforts to create healthier neighborhoods. His portfolio focuses on the nexus of health equity and the built environment, namely transportation, housing, open space, and toxin-free communities. Martinez has worked closely with local and state advocates to ensure low-income communities incorporate unmet health concerns into land use planning and are prioritized for investment in healthy promoting community development such as affordable housing, active transportation, and parks/open space.

He is based in The California Endowment's Los Angeles office and began serving on the steering committee of Smart Growth California, a collaborative of statewide funders advocating for equitable, sustainable, and economical development, in 2013. Martinez has also been a member of the board of the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities since

2015, a national funder collaborative dedicated to equitable and sustainable growth and development, and was selected Vice-Chair in 2018.

Prior to joining The Endowment, Martinez served as Health Policy Advisor in the Majority Health Policy Office of the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) Committee, first under the Chairmanship of the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy, and subsequently under the Chairmanship of Senator Tom Harkin. His legislative portfolio on the HELP Committee included issues relating to public health, disease prevention, health disparities, mental health, HIV/AIDS, and public health preparedness. He also worked on legislation that authorized the National Safe Routes to School Program.

Martinez received his Bachelor of Science from Stanford University, and holds both a Master of Public Health and a Doctorate in Public Health in child and adolescent health and development from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He has also worked in numerous community-based organizations addressing adolescent health concerns including HIV/AIDS, violence prevention, and environmental health.

Destiny Thomas

Deputy Director of Policy and Planning, Just Cities

CTC Appointment Application ID: 78326

Destiny Thomas, PhD is Just City's Deputy Director of Policy and Planning. A Cultural Anthropologist with a community-organizing and Environmental Planning background, she takes a multi-sector approach to elevating the human element and lived experiences in the realms of planning, public health, and environmental justice. A key focal point of her work is increasing access and racial equity in and through transportation and land use planning--with particular interest in developing and influencing a more community-centered planning and design process.

Dr. Thomas recently developed a model for Dignity Infused Community Engagement while working with the Vision Zero Policy and Programs division in Los Angeles, CA. Her current role includes, but is not limited to: operational management, anti-displacement policy, programs and metrics; establishing cross-sector partnerships that situate transportation planning within a broader social context; and, transportation and economic justice across the California region.

Dr. Thomas earned a BA in Political Science from Fisk University, an MPA with an emphasis in Public Health and Non Profit Management from Tennessee State University, and a PhD in Social and Cultural Anthropology from the California Institute of Integral Studies. She is also a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She currently lives in Los Angeles, CA. When Dr. Thomas is away from the office, she is a visual artist and an advocate for survivors of gender-based violence and youth transitioning out of the foster care system.

One of Dr. Thomas' greatest influences is Audre Lorde and core areas of interest include: implementing the "dignity-infused planning" methodology, anti-displacement studies, healing

environmental and infrastructural trauma, and bolstering agency and voice in marginalized communities within municipal planning processes.

San Diego

Monique López

Founder + Social Justice Planner, Pueblo Planning

CTC Appointment Application ID: 78552

For more than a decade Monique Lopez has been a social justice planner and policy advocate working on transportation justice, environmental justice, and public space access throughout Southern California. Monique works with communities using planning tools through storytelling and arts-based engagement to dismantle unjust systems and build equitable communities. Her work is rooted in a simple principle: The voices of residents should be respected as experts, and as such, should dictate the planning and design of their community. Monique also brings in this social justice approach and practice into the classroom and teaches graduate level courses at Antioch University (Urban Infrastructure) and Cal Poly Pomona (Coalition Building).

She is a certified planner with the American Planning Association and has earned a Master's degree in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Oregon and a Master's in Political Science from California State University, Long Beach. She has also earned her Bachelor's degree in History and Political Science with a Minor in Religion from Vanguard University. When she is not working with community members, she loves to ride and work on her bike and is an avid storyteller.

Roman Partido-López

Environmental Equity Legal Counsel, Greenlining Institute

CTC Appointment Application ID: 78405

As Legal Counsel with the Environmental Equity team, Román works to ensure that lower-income communities of color have a seat at the table in order to drive climate investments to help improve air quality and economic opportunities within their communities. He believes that communities and their members must be prioritized, engaged and heard. Román grew up near San Diego in National City, two blocks away from the freeway and across the street from a car body shop that regularly violated city codes by sanding, chroming and painting vehicles out in the open. His exposure to these toxic chemicals and pollution inspired him to work on addressing environmental concerns in his community. Román is based in San Diego. He is working alongside local community stakeholders to help advance local priorities that improve the quality of life of those who reside in low-income communities and elevate these priorities at the state level to ensure San Diego is on the map. Additionally, Román advocates at the state and national level for policies and programs that help reduce poverty and pollution in low-income communities of color.

Román was the Environmental Equity Legal Fellow from 2013-2014 where he worked on SB 535 implementation and the development of the Charge Ahead Initiative, creating pilot programs to increase access to cleaner vehicles. More recently he was Senior Equity Specialist at the Center for Sustainable Energy, where he worked with CSE's renewables and transportation teams.

Román received his B.A. from the University of San Diego and J.D. from Thomas Jefferson School of Law.