

August 31, 2017

Paul Jablonski
Chief Executive Officer
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System
1255 Imperial Avenue Suite 1000
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: Request to Allow Handwashing Stations on MTS Properties

Dear Mr. Jablonski,

As you are aware there is an acute Hepatitis A outbreak occurring in Downtown San Diego. The County and City of San Diego are currently coordinating efforts to effectively address this outbreak and have executed an agreement to allow for the placement of handwashing stations within the public right-of-way. The County of San Diego Health and Human Services will procure and maintain the hand washing stations. The County of San Diego in partnership with the City is working towards a solution to address this health crisis. We need to expedite the installation of these stations and look to land operated by Metropolitan Transit Board (MTS) for opportunities to site and maintain them as soon as possible.

As members of the MTS Board, we urge you to allow the County to install handwashing stations on MTS properties with a focus on the Downtown MTS headquarters trolley station. It is imperative to public health in the City of San Diego that this immediate step be taken. As you are aware, the ongoing spread of the Hepatitis A virus, mainly through fecal-oral transmission, has taken 15 lives and hospitalized 260 people.

Helping to curb this outbreak can be directly addressed by adding more handwashing stations. We must continue to work together in order to address this outbreak and putting an end to what a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) official called "...likely the most deaths in an outbreak in the US in the past 20 years".

It is our responsibility as members of MTS to ensure that the agency is an active and engaged partner in the regional efforts to stop this outbreak in its tracks. This matter is of the utmost urgency and worthy of our immediate attention.

Sincerely,



Georgette Gómez
Councilmember
District 9
City of San Diego



Lorie Zapf
Councilmember
District 2
City of San Diego



Myrtle Cole
Council President
District 4
City of San Diego

cc: Honorable Mayor Kevin Faulconer
Honorable County Supervisor Ron Roberts
Jonathan Herrera, Office of the Mayor
Honorable City Attorney Mara Elliott
Andrea Tevlin, Office of the Independent Budget Analyst