



December 16, 2019

Honorable Mayor Kevin Faulconer
City Councilmembers
202 C Street
San Diego, CA 92101

Honorable Mayor Faulconer and City Councilmembers,

The City of San Diego Accessibility Advisory Board (Board) requests a \$20 million annual allocation for ADA projects in the fiscal year 2021 budget and continuing through fiscal year 2025. In addition, we request the Office of ADA Compliance and Accessibility maintain its current funding and staffing levels in order to ensure equitable access for all throughout San Diego.

In fiscal years 2008-2012, the Mayor and Councilmembers committed \$10 million per year to address the City's unfunded Transition Plan and ADA Complaints. This Board has significant concerns about ADA compliance, and we request a renewed financial commitment for the necessary improvements cited in the City's ADA Transition Plan and ADA complaints. We strongly suggest recommitting consistent funding to the City's Transition Plan and unfunded complaints to make San Diego America's Most Accessible City.

Currently, the unmet need to complete transition plan and complaint projects is approximately \$50 million. Several complex unfunded complaint projects date back to 2008! Over the past three fiscal years the City's CIP Budget averages approximately \$425 million. We feel it is critical to allocate 5 percent of that amount per year exclusively for ADA Transition plan and ADA complaint projects, amounting to approximately \$21 million per year of consistent CIP funding. It should be stressed that many ADA projects improve the overall condition of existing facilities, thus saving the city maintenance costs while improving accessibility for people with disabilities. Additionally, allocating funds to remediate issues in the public rights-of-way protects the City from class action lawsuits, which are becoming prevalent in Southern California and have recently affected the cities of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

Additionally, we have concerns over the approach for funding to be managed by the asset managing Departments and a perceived lack of consistency for ADA project delivery across all departments in the City of San Diego. We would like ADA projects funded because of the need and requirements, not because they fall into a more haphazard approach based on departmental allocation.

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We recommend continuing the previous funding commitment to demonstrate the City's ongoing dedication to improving accessibility in San Diego. We, your appointed Board, are here to advise how to best achieve compliance with accessibility regulations and make San Diego an inviting city for *all* people. We believe proper funding is the most effective plan to make that happen in a reasonable time frame of five years. ADA compliance enhances the San Diego by attracting new tourism and providing safe, updated, and accessible infrastructure.

Please contact Thyme Curtis, Executive Director of the Accessibility Advisory Board, at tcurtis@sanidiego.gov or 619-236-5985, or Adam Ringler, Board Chair, at ARingler@sandiegozoo.org or 619-557-3973 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Adam M Ringler
Chair, Accessibility Advisory Board