

October 17, 1983

Mayor R. Burnett Miller
and
Sacramento City Councilmen
City Hall
Sacramento, California, 95814

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

A letter from the federal Urban Mass Transit Administration, to whom I had sent a 200-word mailgram with reasons against the proposed Light Rail System, answered: "The final decision on what type of transportation best addressed as local needs is a local matter." Therefore, the City of Sacramento does have the final say and since bids for the street cars won't be accepted until November 10th, the City Council can still change its mind regardless of any possible commitment or obligation by any of its members.

Please restudy the May 19 California Transportation Commission Staff Analysis of the proposed project, and also its included negative eleven point summary of UMTA's Technical Assessment. Point eleven concludes: "In summary, the locally approved alternative has little to recommend it, either as an independent option or a first step toward a larger scale facility." That is by unbiased, capable, thorough and experienced appraisers who, in addition, mentioned the need of another \$43 million over the projected \$131 million.

And remember, the Staff Analysis was tempered by its understandable need to leave the door wide open for the Commission to make the decision. Yet it summarizes as follows: "The Commission has four issues before it: the adequacy of the project's capital budget; the ability of the community to finance transit operations; the extent to which the project addresses a specific transportation problem; and the project's effectiveness."

Not one of the four issues has come out with positive results. So it seems both state and federal approval of funds, that now appear as insufficient, were based on other than the merits for the Light Rail. Why then did they approve? Political pressure may be the answer. As those of you who attended the three Commission meetings, including the one in San Francisco, know, our State Senator and two Assemblymen appeared

in person to importune for the trolley system. Besides, our two Congressmen sent letters that were read requesting affirmation.

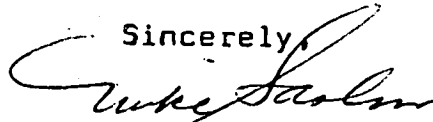
This letter is a plea to rescind approval of the Light Rail Project. Evidently some wood rail ties have already been purchased and some rail. They can easily be resold.

Already Regional Transit, that will own and operate the system, requires an annual \$18 million subsidy, about two thirds of which comes from sales taxes. How many more millions can Sacramento stand coming from the necessary private sector economy?

Of course the people widely accepted the concept of Light Rail. But who, who would set sail in a boat that leaked very badly?

Please rescind approval of the presently conceived Light Rail System.

Sincerely,



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