WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles, in partnership with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), is in the midst of a dramatic expansion of the rail-based mass transit system in the City and the County of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, the San Fernando Valley has largely been excluded from this rail expansion and one of the obstacles to converting the Metro Orange Line to light rail in the future is state law, Public Utilities Code section 130265, enacted in 1991 as SB 211 (Robbins). which prohibited a light rail from North Hollywood all the way to Hazletine Avenue; and

WHEREAS, this provision limits any rail transit project along the 3.5 mile segment of Southern Pacific Burbank Branch along Chandler Avenue between the western edge of the 101 Freeway and Hazeltine Avenue to an underground Heavy Rail Transit (HRT) system; and

WHEREAS, the underlying considerations that resulted in SB 211's passage twenty-two years ago have changed; the development of transit options has been embraced in every corner of the City, and Angelenos are increasingly calling for fast ways to commute for work and play besides using their cars; and

WHEREAS, rail expansion in the Valley should be part of future transit planning efforts, especially as the Orange line is heavily used and often running at capacity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2013-2014 State Legislative Program support and sponsorship of any legislation which would repeal Public Utilities Code section 130265, enacted in 1991 as SB 211 (Robbins) which prohibits a light rail from North Hollywood all the way to Hazletine Avenue; and support of any legislative and/or administrative action by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) which would prioritize the development of rail-based transit for corridors with the highest ridership in the San Fernando Valley in its Long Range Transportation Plan.

PRESENTED BY:

TOM LABONGE

Councilman, 4th District