

**Notice of Exemption**

---

**To:**

Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk  
County of San Diego  
1600 Pacific Highway, Suite 260  
San Diego, CA 92101

**From:**

San Diego Association of Governments  
401 B Street, Suite 800  
San Diego, CA 92101

Project Applicant: San Diego Association of Governments  
401 B Street, Suite 800  
San Diego, CA 92101

**Project Title:** Amendments to Comprehensive Fare Ordinance

**Project Location:** Service area of the Metropolitan Transit Service (MTS) and the North County Transit District (NCTD) within San Diego County

**Description of Specific Location, Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** The proposed Amendments to Comprehensive Fare Ordinance would introduce a new fare collection system and help induce ridership growth. The amendments include:

- Discontinuing the current fare technology system named Compass and implementing a next generation fare system named PRONTO.
- Implementing fare policy change to allow “best-fare,” PRONTO’s payment system that allows for riders to never pay more than the price of Day or Monthly passes.
- Reducing youth one-way fares to align with Senior/Disabled/Medicare one-way fares.
- Allowing free transfers with one-way fare with PRONTO card (except COASTER) within a two-hour window of first ride.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** San Diego Association of Governments

**Name of Public Agency Carrying out Project:** San Diego Association of Governments

**Exempt Status:**

- Statutory Exemption. State code number: 15273 Rates, Tolls, Fares, and Charges

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

CEQA does not apply to the establishment, modification, structuring, or approval of fares which are for the purpose of meeting operating expenses such as the propose project.

**Responsible Agency Contact Person:** Keith Greer

**Area Code/Telephone:** 619-699-7390

**Signature:**  \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** 04/16/2021 **Title:** Principal Planner

- Signed by Lead Agency

## Findings in Support of Notice of Exemption Under the California Environmental Quality Act Relating to Fare Modifications Incorporated Into an Amended Comprehensive Fare Ordinance

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) and the North County Transit District (NCTD) are discontinuing the current fare technology system named Compass and are implementing a next generation fare system named PRONTO and need to modify fares; and

WHEREAS, a Comprehensive Fare Ordinance amendment incorporating modifications is necessary to provide MTS and NCTD the ability to revise fares for purposes of implementing "best fares" or fare capping, PRONTO's payment system that allows for riders to never pay more than the price of Day or Monthly passes; and

WHEREAS, other reductions and revisions to the fares will help induce ridership growth; and

WHEREAS, the SANDAG Transportation Committee wishes to render written findings in support of the determination that the amended Regional Comprehensive Fare Ordinance does not require an Environmental Impact Report before it approves such amendment; and

WHEREAS, if a project falls within a category exempt by administrative regulation under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), no further agency evaluation of environmental impact is required; and

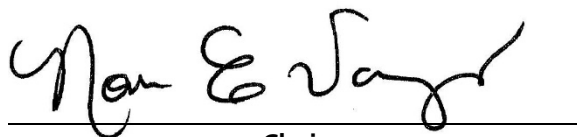
WHEREAS, establishment of fares and fare modifications are exempt from CEQA pursuant to an exemption for fees charged by a public agency for the purpose of meeting operating expenses pursuant to Public Resources Code, § 21080, subd. (b)(8); and California Code of Regulations Title 14, § 15273, subd. (a); and

WHEREAS, it has been made clear that any increased revenues obtained from the fare modification will be used for operations purposes rather than for capital improvements.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that SANDAG makes the following finding:

Both MTS and NCTD need to revise fares to both enable implementation of a new fare system and provide for new fares that will help induce ridership growth.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 16th of April 2021.



Chair

Attest:



Secretary

**Member Agencies:** Cities of Carlsbad, Chula Vista, Coronado, Del Mar, El Cajon, Encinitas, Escondido, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, National City, Oceanside, Poway, San Diego, San Marcos, Santee, Solana Beach, Vista, and County of San Diego.

**Advisory Members:** California Department of Transportation, Metropolitan Transit System, North County Transit District, Imperial County, U.S. Department of Defense, Port of San Diego, San Diego County Water Authority, Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association, and Mexico.