

Date of Hearing: April 27, 2016

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Susan Talamantes Eggman, Chair

AB 2196 (Low) – As Introduced February 18, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority.

**SUMMARY:** Makes several changes to the statutes which govern the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Clarifies that the mayor of a city is authorized to serve on Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority's (VTA) Board of Directors (Board of Directors) in the same manner as city councilmembers.
- 2) Prohibits VTA from levying any tax unless approved by electors voting on the measure in accordance with Article XIII C of the California Constitution at a special election called for that purpose by the Board of Directors.
- 3) Replaces references to the authority or district with VTA.
- 4) Replaces references to VTA's executive director with general manager.
- 5) Deletes obsolete and outdated provisions of law regarding reorganization and labor disputes.
- 6) Makes other technical and conforming changes.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Establishes the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority Act (Act) which governs the formation, governance, taxing authority, and powers for VTA.
- 2) Establishes the composition of the twelve-member Board of Directors, as follows:
  - a) Two representatives of Santa Clara County (County) and one alternate. Requires those representatives to be members of the County Board of Supervisors appointed by the Board of Supervisors
  - b) Five representatives of the City of San Jose and one alternate. Requires those representatives to be members of the San Jose City Council and appointed by the City Council.
  - c) Five representatives of cities in the County, other than the City of San Jose. Requires those representatives to be City Council members selected based on agreements, as specified.
- 3) Prohibits the District from levying any tax unless a majority of electors voting on the measure vote to authorize the levy of the tax at a special election called for that purpose by the Board of Supervisors.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** None

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) **Background and Bill Summary.** VTA is an independent special district which provides transit services and transportation planning within Santa Clara County. VTA provides bus, shuttle, light rail, and paratransit services and partners with other governmental agencies on regional commuter and rail ventures. Additionally, VTA provides countywide transportation planning and congestion management. Since its inception in 1995 as the Santa Clara County Transit District, VTA has undergone reorganization (merging Santa Clara County Transit District and the Santa Clara County Congestion Management Agency) and has been tasked with additional duties by the Legislature.

Now known as the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, VTA is seeking additional changes to their Act to update, provide consistency, and delete obsolete provisions of law. This bill is sponsored by VTA.

- 2) **Author's Statement.** According to the author, "A comprehensive review and clean-up of the underlying state statutes governing VTA has not been done since the reorganization occurred more than 20 years ago. Therefore, AB 2196 has been introduced to make a series of technical, non-substantive, clean-up changes to VTA's enabling statutes that are intended to update provisions that are outdated, delete provisions that are obsolete or inoperable, and modify provisions that are unclear or inconsistent."
- 3) **Arguments in Support.** Supporters argue that this bill makes technical non-substantive changes to VTA's enabling statutes to be consistent with historical changes and provide more clarity in the Act.
- 4) **Arguments in Opposition.** None on file.
- 5) **Double-Referral.** This bill was heard in the Transportation Committee on April 4, 2016, where it passed on consent with a 16-0 vote.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) [SPONSOR]  
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors

**Opposition**

None on file

**Analysis Prepared by:** Misa Lennox / L. GOV. / (916) 319-3958