DECL. OF T. RUBIN ISO PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY ADJUDICATION Case No. C-05-1597-EDL

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I, Thomas A. Rubin, declare as follows:

- I have been retained by Plaintiffs' counsel to analyze the funding, planning, 1. legislative advocacy, and other decision-making policies and practices of Defendant Metropolitan Transportation Commission ("MTC") and their impact on the riders of the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District ("AC Transit").
- I have over thirty years of experience in the field of governmental transportation 2. and finance and I have served over 100 transit operators, metropolitan planning organizations, state departments of transportation, the U.S. Department of Transportation, transportation industry trade organizations, transit labor unions, and other governmental, private, and not-forprofit transportation entities with a wide variety of consulting and audit projects. I have served as an expert consultant or expert witness in several legal matters, including Labor/Community Strategy Center, et al. v Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, ("MTA") et al. (Central District of California, No. 94-5936 TJH [MCX]) and Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates, et al. v Metropolitan Transportation Commission, et al. (Northern District of California, No. C-01-0750 TEH).
- This declaration summarizes the opinions expressed in my Expert Report and 3. Declaration and my Rebuttal Expert Report and Declaration as they relate to the Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Adjudication. A true and correct copy of my Expert Report and Declaration (with exhibits), dated January 11, 2008, is attached to this declaration as Exhibit 1. A true and correct copy of my Rebuttal Expert Report and Declaration (with exhibits), dated February 25, 2008, is attached to this declaration as Exhibit 2. For ease of reference, an index of the contents of my two reports is attached as Exhibit 3.
- In Section A of this declaration, I summarize my findings with regard to the 4. services provided by AC Transit, BART and Caltrain, and the shrinking level of service provided by AC Transit as compared to the expanding level of service provided by BART and Caltrain.
- In Section B, I summarize federal requirements that govern metropolitan planning 5. organizations ("MPOs"), like MTC in connection with the adoption of their long-range

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transportation plans, also known as Regional Transportation Plans ("RTPs"). In particular, I discuss the requirement to emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system, the requirement of fiscal constraint, and the requirement to identify and cover shortfalls.

- In Section C, I describe important concepts relating to shortfalls, and explain that 6. transit shortfalls are the best metric for quantifying the extent to which a transit operator lacks the ability to continue to provide an ongoing level of service over time.
- In Section D, I summarize the transit shortfalls that MTC has identified in its four 7. most recent RTPs, and the process by which it identifies those shortfalls.
- In Section E, I summarize MTC's practice of covering capital rehabilitation 8. shortfalls, but not operating shortfalls, and explain why that practice forces AC Transit to cut service.

#### Section A:

## AC Transit, BART and Caltrain

- I focus my analysis on AC Transit, BART, and Caltrain for a number of reasons, 9. including the following: First, AC Transit, BART, and Caltrain are among the region's major primarily single-mode operators. Second, comparisons between funding for AC Transit and BART are particularly appropriate, given that they are, respectively, the largest bus-only and railonly operators in the Bay Area, and their service areas overlap to a very significant extent; for example, AC Transit provides service along the entirety of BART's Richmond-Fremont line, as well as between the East Bay and San Francisco. (See Exhibit 2 at ¶ 100, n. 27.)
- In my opinion, the most meaningful measure of the amount of service that a transit 10. agency provides to transit riders is "Vehicle Revenue Miles" ("VRMi"), which the Federal Transit Administration ("FTA") defines as "The miles that vehicles ... actually travel while in

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Although AC Transit and BART both provide demand-responsive "Americans with Disabilities Act" services, these are relatively small portions of their total services and the services are not operated by AC Transit or BART directly, but by a shared contractual arrangement with third-party providers. While I am certainly not saying that these services are unimportant, for our current purposes, they can be regarded as having only very minor impacts.

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revenue service." A train with six passenger cars in service to the public traveling one mile would produce six VRMi. A bus traveling one mile would produce one VRMi. (See Exhibit 1 at ¶ 102.)

Between FY93 and FY06, the Vehicle Revenue Miles operated by AC Transit, 11. BART, and Caltrain changed as follows:

Operator	FY93 VRMi	FY06 VRMi	% Change
AC Transit	23,460,309	21,198,605	(9.6%)
BART	41,893,212	62,088,502	48.2%
Caltrain	3,445,358	6,215,464	80.4%

(See Exhibit 1 at ¶ 103 and Ex. E.)

During this period, as the population of its service area increased by approximately 12. 11.3% and the transit needs at least as much, and as the VRMi operated by BART and Caltrain increased substantially, AC Transit's VRMi decreased. The reason for this decrease is that AC Transit did not have sufficient operating funds to maintain the desired level of service, leading to reductions in services offered to the public. By contrast, BART and Caltrain did have, and continue to have, sufficient operating funding, not only for their then-existing service, but also for their significant service expansions over this same period. (See Exhibit 1 at ¶ 106 and Ex. F.)

#### Section B:

# Federal requirements that govern MPOs in connection with the adoption of their RTPs.

Federal law makes it very clear to MPOs like MTC that preserving existing transit 13. operations is the highest priority of transit planning and transit funding. While this does not mean that no existing transit service should ever be eliminated – for example, if a new form of transit can provide faster and better service to an existing service population, or do it more costeffectively, then eliminating the pre-existing service and replacing it with the new service can very often be justified - it does mean that, under Federal law, preserving existing transit service is a higher priority than expanding transit service, if a choice must be made. Indeed, MTC appears to agree with this prioritization because its own planning process claims to assign preservation of the existing system priority over expansion. (See Exhibit 1 at ¶ 56.) I discuss the requirement DECL. OF T. RUBIN ISO PLAINTIFFS' MOTION - 3 -

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that MTC prioritize system preservation in greater detail in my opening and rebuttal reports, its basis in federal statutory law, federal regulation, and federal agency guidance, as well as MTC's adoption of system preservation as a stated funding priority. (See Exhibit 1 at ¶ 56-73; Exhibit 2 at ¶¶ 36-44.)

Since the adoption of the federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act 14. of 1991 (Public Law 102-240), known as "ISTEA," MTC's RTP has also been subject to the requirement of "fiscal constraint." For financial plans that support metropolitan long-range transportation plans, 23 CFR 450.322(b)(11) specifies that:

> The estimated revenue by existing revenue source (local, State, Federal and private) available for transportation projects shall be determined and any shortfalls identified. Proposed new revenues and/or revenue sources to cover shortfalls shall be identified, including strategies for ensuring their availability for proposed investments. Existing and proposed revenues shall cover all forecasted capital, operating, and maintenance costs.

This regulation governed the RTPs MTC adopted in 1998, 2001 and 2005. As stated by the federal transportation agencies in "FHWA-FTA Fiscal Constraint Guidance," dated June 27, 2005, "The basic question to be answered [in the fiscally-constrained RTP] is 'Will the revenues... identified in the [RTP] cover the anticipated costs of the projects included in this [RTP], along with operation and maintenance of the existing system?" (See Exhibit 1 at ¶ 32.) This document may be found on the FHWA website, at http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/fcguid62705.htm.)

- In developing financially constrained plans, federal law requires MPOs to 15. eliminate "shortfalls." A "shortfall," quite simply, is the difference between revenues and expenditures. (See Exhibit 1 at ¶ 77.)
- While there are virtually always "shortfalls" in the original and subsequent 16. working drafts of the financial component of long-range plans like MTC's RTPs, they must be eliminated in the final, adopted version, which must be fiscally constrained. This almost always requires MPOs to make hard choices by pursuing a combination of two strategies: reducing operating and/or capital expenditures by eliminating lower-priority projects and programs and/or finding additional sources of revenues. (See Exhibit 1 at ¶ 80. See also Exhibit 2 at ¶ 15.)

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Federal law does not distinguish between the types of shortfalls that an MPO is 17. required to cover in its financially constrained plans, and instead requires both operating and capital shortfalls to be covered. As noted above, 23 CFR 450.322(b)(11) states that "Existing and proposed revenues shall cover all forecasted capital, operating, and maintenance costs." (emphasis added). This regulation not only does not differentiate shortfalls as "operating" and "capital," but specifically commingles into a single, unified "shortfall" concept, requiring all shortfalls, whether for operating or capital purposes, to be covered. (See Exhibit 1 at ¶ 81.)

#### Section C:

## Transit shortfalls are the best metric for quantifying the extent to which an operator lacks the ability to continue to provide an ongoing level of service over time

- There are three main components of transit expenditures: transit operations, capital 18. renewal and replacement.<sup>2</sup> and capital expansion. Both transit operations and capital renewal and replacement expenses are necessary to operate the existing systems, while capital expansion expenses relate to the capital cost of expanding the existing transportation system. (See Exhibit 1 at ¶ 36.)
- Many sources of transit funding have significant statutory, regulatory, and/or 19. contractual restrictions on the purposes for which they can be expended. Certain sources may be primarily for transit operations, a wide range of other sources may be utilized for all three, and others may only be used for capital purposes. (See Exhibit 1 at ¶ 37.)
- MTC sets policy with respect to the use of significant sources of transit funding; 20. for instance, it uses Federal "formula" funds under 49 U.S.C. § 5307 (which by statute can be used for both capital and certain significant operating costs) virtually entirely for capital replacement, rather than statutorily-authorized operating costs. (See Exhibit 1 at ¶ 38; see also, *id.* at ¶¶ 117-132 and Exhibit C; Exhibit 2 at ¶¶ 233-235.)
- MTC also has indirect control over funding sources that are within the direct 21. purview of others (such as transit fares, which are directly controlled by the transit operators that
  - Capital renewal and replacement is also referred to as "capital rehabilitation."

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collect them) and the substantial revenues collected pursuant to county sales tax measures (which are governed by expenditure plans). (See Exhibit 1 at ¶ 39 & Exhibit C.)

- An operating shortfall measures the extent to which a transit operator is unable to 22. deliver the baseline of service against which that shortfall is measured. As a result, the amount of an operator's unfunded operating shortfall is directly calculated to quantify the degree to which that operator is unable to continue to provide existing service. Similarly, the degree to which MTC covers operating and capital rehabilitation shortfalls is directly calculated to quantify the amount of assistance MTC provides to operators to enable them to continue to provide existing service. (See Exhibit 1 at ¶ 178; Exhibit 2 at ¶ 8(c).) In my opinion, the extent of unfunded operating and capital rehabilitation shortfalls - combined - is the best measure of whether a particular transit operator has adequate funding to continue to provide existing service over time. (See Exhibit 2 at  $\P$  8(c).)
- As noted above, federal law emphasizes the paramount importance of preserving 23. the existing system, and operating expenses are no less necessary to preserving the existing system than are capital rehabilitation needs. Indeed, while federal law does not distinguish between the types of shortfalls that an MPO is required to cover in its long-range plan, the principle of prioritizing preservation of the existing transportation system would, if anything, prioritize operating shortfalls over capital rehabilitation shortfalls. This is so because operating shortfalls more immediately jeopardize the existing system, while capital rehabilitation shortfalls do not. If there is not enough funding for capital rehabilitation, there may not be significant impact on current levels of operations for some time. As MTC itself acknowledges, a shortfall for transit capital replacement simply means deferred maintenance, not that unsafe transit vehicles are being operated. However, if an operator faces a shortfall in its operations funding, the standard result is an immediate reduction in transit service operated, as MTC acknowledges. Transit agencies operate on the basis of balanced annual budgets, where revenues must not be less than operating expenses; when there is not sufficient funding to operate the desired level of service and there is limited or no opportunity to increase revenues or reduce costs, the only available option to balance the budget is to reduce expenses. (See Exhibit 1 at ¶ 82.)

24. Thus, unrelieved capital rehabilitation shortfalls are unlikely to have an immediate significant impact on the existing system, whereas unrelieved operating shortfalls pose serious and immediate threats to the existing system in the form of service cuts, fare increases, and other impacts on the quantity and quality of transit services provided. None of this is to say that capital rehabilitation shortfalls can or should be completely ignored, but simply that long-term transportation requires a balance. Operating shortfalls cannot be subordinated wholesale to capital rehabilitation shortfalls without jeopardizing the existing system in the very short term. (See Exhibit 1 at ¶83.)

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#### **Section D:**

# The transit shortfalls that MTC identifies in its RTPs, and the process by which it identifies those shortfalls.

25. MTC has adopted four RTPs under the ISTEA/TEA-21<sup>3</sup> regimen of fiscal constraint: in 1994, 1998, 2001 and 2005. For each of these RTPs, MTC has described a four-step process by which it determines the operating and capital revenues, needs and shortfalls for its RTP: *First*, MTC identifies the inventory of funds that will be reasonably available from all sources (federal, state, regional and local), and projects them out over 25 years. *Second*, MTC assesses the needs or costs of preserving, in other words, maintaining and operating, the existing transportation system over that same period. *Third*, MTC assigns revenues to existing system operations and maintenance needs, allocating funding sources based on (1) their statutory eligibility and (2) MTC Commission policies. Many sources of funds have statutory or other limitations on the purposes for which they may be spent; while MTC is responsible for ensuring that funds are allocated consistent with these statutory limitations, MTC also adopts its own policies governing the allocation of funds, which place further constraints on how funds are to be allocated, above and beyond statutory limitations. *Fourth*, it is MTC's policy to assign funding according to the following order of priority: with the "envelope" of revenues beyond what has

The federal transportation reauthorization bill that succeeded ISTEA in 1998, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (Public Law 105-178), is commonly known as "TEA-21." (See Exhibit 1, at ¶ 28.)

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commitments" to existing projects (projects already included in a prior RTP or TIP), and then (b) with any remaining funds, MTC funds "new projects." (See Exhibit 1 at ¶¶ 41-48.) The starting point for MTC's 25-year RTP cost projections for a particular transit 26.

been assigned to maintaining and sustaining the existing system, MTC (a) first funds "prior

- operator's operating costs is the operator's ten-year projections in its most recent Short-Range Transit Plan ("SRTP"). (See Exhibit 1 at ¶ 44.) Based on its policy decisions about how funds should be spent, MTC prepares revenue projections for each operator and requires each operator to prepare a balanced budget, including proposed service levels, that conforms to the revenues that are assigned to that operator by MTC policy. MTC's SRTP Guidelines explicitly require operators to tailor their service levels to fit MTC's revenue projections. For instance, the 2000 SRTP Guidelines state that, "Where reductions in service levels are required in order to achieve a balanced operating budget, the SRTP shall document how the reductions are to be made and assess the impacts of the cuts on the communities involved." The 2004 SRTP Guidelines state, similarly, "Where reductions in service levels are required in order to achieve a balanced operating budget, describe the reductions and assess their impact on the affected service areas and communities." (See Exhibit 1 at ¶49-55; see also, id. at ¶¶ 50-55.)
- Before describing the operating shortfalls that MTC has identified for AC Transit 27. in its last four RTPs, I note that MTC itself has created those operating shortfalls. (See Exhibit 1 at ¶ 21.) MTC sets policy with respect to the use of significant sources of transit funding under its control. (See, e.g., ¶¶ 19-21 of this Declaration above.) As I described earlier, the operating shortfalls identified in the initial stage of the RTP planning process are based on MTC's policy decisions. (See Exhibit 1 at ¶¶ 37-40, 114-162; Exhibit 2 at ¶¶ 60-88.)
- MTC's last four RTPs identified operating shortfalls reflecting insufficient revenue 28. to allow AC Transit to operate its then-existing service levels. BART and Caltrain did not suffer similar shortfalls in the revenue necessary to operate existing service. At the same time, these RTPs also reflect capital rehabilitation shortfalls for each of the three operators. As described in Section E, below, MTC chose not to cover AC Transit's operating shortfalls and instead covered

rehabilitation shortfalls of BART and Caltrain. (See Exhibit 1 at ¶ 92.)

and \$64.355 million in the 2005 RTP. (See Exhibit 1 at ¶ 93.)

capital rehabilitation shortfalls, directing a major share of RTP funds to cover the capital

\$360.5 million in the 1994 RTP, \$136.2 million in the 1998 RTP, \$27.3 million in the 2001 RTP,

shortfall in the three most recent RTPs. BART's \$2.5 billion capital shortfall in the most recent

Caltrain has an operating shortfall only in the 2005 RTP of \$22.9 million.

RTP comprises nearly 70% of the total for the three operators. (See Exhibit 1 at  $\P$  94(b).)

Caltrain's 2005 RTP operating shortfall, however, unlike AC Transit's, does not reflect an

In each of these four RTPs, MTC identified an operating shortfall for AC Transit:

BART does not have an operating shortfall in any of the RTPs, and has a capital

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construction" or with "full funding commitments"). (See id.) Indeed, MTC has spent billions of dollars in capital expansion (plus the additional

revenue to operate existing service ("those services in operation") or expanded service ("under

Caltrain service, while its capital expansion costs for AC Transit have been minimal in

inability to operate its existing level of service. Rather, it is due to the additional cost of operating the "Baby Bullet" train service expansion, and - unlike AC Transit - its operating shortfall does not represent a shortfall in funding to operate its pre-existing service. (See Exhibit

- 1 at ¶ 94(c).) When assessing the costs of maintaining the "existing transportation" system in the 32. RTP and, in turn, identifying "shortfalls", MTC uses a "baseline" for the "existing" system that is defined as "those services in operation, under construction, or that have full funding commitments." Thus, an operating shortfall that appears in its RTP can represent a shortfall in
- 33. operating and capital rehabilitation costs that capital expansion brings with it) for new BART and comparison. (See Exhibit 1 at ¶ 98; see also, id. at ¶ 99.)

RTP. Second, the baseline of service on which an RTP operating shortfall for AC Transit is

predicated is not even the same as the lower baseline that results from the preceding RTP

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operating shortfall; rather, it is even lower than that. As previously described, MTC's calculation
of the RTP shortfalls is based on the level of service included in the operator's SRTP. That level
of service, however, is not necessarily the level of service that an operator is actually running -
which is what federal requirements mean when they talk about preserving the "existing" system -
but the amount that can be sustained with the revenue MTC allots. (See Exhibit 1 at ¶ 108.)
35. For instance, AC Transit's operating shortfall of \$64.355 million reflected in the

2005 RTP understates the magnitude of the shortfall in funds required by AC Transit to operate the level of existing service it was running at the time MTC determined operator shortfalls as part of the 2005 RTP process. AC Transit suffered a very significant reduction in bus operations just prior to the establishment of the "baseline" used to calculate RTP expenditures. When these service cuts are accounted for, AC Transit's operating shortfall for the 2005 RTP period was actually more than half a billion dollars higher - \$564.5 million. Even this figure is conservative because it does not account for an additional 4% service cut AC implemented before the 2003-04 fiscal year. (See Exhibit 2 at ¶ 95; see also, Exhibit 1 at ¶ 108; Exhibit 2 at ¶¶ 96-98.)

#### **Section E:**

MTC's practice of covering capital rehabilitation shortfalls, but not operating shortfalls, forces AC Transit to cut service by leaving AC Transit without the funds necessary to operate its existing level of service.

- After making its initial shortfall calculations (see ¶ 25 above, describing Steps 1 36. through 3), MTC assigned "regional discretionary funding" (also referred to as "Track 1 funding") to cover certain transit shortfalls. In its RTP process since 1994, MTC has never covered operating shortfalls, but it has regularly covered part or all of the capital rehabilitation shortfalls. (See Exhibit 1 at ¶ 96; see also id. at ¶ 97.)
- The chart below shows MTC's application of this "regional discretionary funding" 37. to the capital rehabilitation shortfalls that it identified in the final 1998, 2001 and 2005 RTPs. It shows the percentage of Track 1 funding assigned to AC Transit, BART, and Caltrain, based on

the total Track 1 funding assigned to these three operators. It also shows the proportion of each operator's total shortfall (operating plus capital rehabilitation) that MTC funded.

# MTC's Assignment of Track 1 Funding to Cover Shortfalls

	WIIC 3	Assignment	or frack i	I unumg w	, 00,01 220		%
Capital				Operating			Operating
	Millions		Percent	Millions		Percent	+Capital
Agency	Shortfall	Covered	Track 1	Shortfall	Covered	Covered	Covered
1998 RTP							
AC Transit	\$205.909	\$154.400	14.5%	\$136.151	-0-	0.0%	45.1%
BART	797.772	598.300	56.2%	-0-	-0-	0.0%	75.0%
Caltrain	416.076	312.100	29.3%	-0-	-0-	0.0%	75.0%
Total	\$1,419.757	\$1,064.800	100.0%	\$136.151	-0-	0.0%	68.4%
2001 RTP							
AC Transit	\$188.400	\$188.400	23.4%	\$36.700	-0-	0.0%	83.7%
BART	472.800	472.800	58.7%	-0-	-0-	0.0%	100.0%
Caltrain	143.800	143.800	17.9%	-0-	-0-	0.0%	100.0%
Total	\$805.000	\$805.000	100.0%	\$36.700	-0-	0.0%	95.6%
2005 RTP							
AC Transit	\$458.474	143.386	\$11.8%	\$64.355	-0-	0.0%	27.4%
BART	2,460.594	1,073.005	88.2%	-0-	-0-	0.0%	43.6%
Caltrain	515.545	-0-	0.0%	22.868	-0-	0.0%	0.0%
Total	\$3,434.613	\$1,216.391	100.0%	\$87.223	-0-	0.0%	34.5%

As noted above, in the 1998 RTP, MTC covered only 45.1% of AC Transit's total shortfall, while covering 75% of BART and Caltrain's. In the 2001 RTP, MTC covered only 83.7% of AC Transit's total shortfall, as compared to 100% of BART and Caltrain's. And in the 2005 RTP, MTC allocated \$1.073 billion to BART to cover 43.6% of its total shortfall, but only covered 27.4% of AC Transit's total shortfall, as identified by MTC in the 2005 RTP. (*See* Exhibit 1 at ¶ 95.)

38. In the 2005 RTP, MTC assigned nearly \$9 billion in what it refers to as "discretionary" or "Track 1" funding – funding which was assigned by Commission policy in the RTP itself, as a part of the financially-constrained element. (See Exhibit 1 at ¶ 181.) These funds are comprised primarily of three funding sources over which MTC exercises control: Surface

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Transportation Program ("STP"), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program ("CMAQ") funds, and State Transportation Improvement Program ("STIP") funds. (See Exhibit 2 at ¶ 87.)

As noted above, AC Transit's true operating shortfall in the 2005 RTP was more 39. on the order of \$564.5. (See Exhibit 2 at ¶ 98; see also, Exhibit 1 at ¶ 108; Exhibit 2 at ¶¶ 95, 97-98.) When the chart reflected in ¶ 37 above is revised to account for AC Transit's true operating shortfall, the actual disparity is even greater: MTC covered 43.6% of BART's total shortfall, but only covered 14.02% of AC Transit's total shortfall:

MTC's Assignment of Discretionary ("Track 1") Funding to Cover Actual Shortfalls

Capital				Operating			% Operating	
Agency	Millions		Percent Track 1	Millions		Percent Covered	+Capital Covered	
2005 RTP								
AC Transit BART Caltrain Total	\$458.474 2,460.594 515.545 \$3,434.613	143.386 1,073.005 -0- \$1,216.391	\$11.8% 88.2% 0.0% 100.0%	\$500.498 -0- 22.868 \$87.223	-0- -0- -0- -0-	0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0%	14.02% 43.6% 0.0% 34.5%	
(See Exhibit 2 at ¶ 102.)								

MTC's practice of failing to cover the operating shortfalls (shortfalls that its 40. funding policies create, see ¶ 27 above) forces AC Transit to reduce service levels. (See Exhibit 1

at ¶¶ 24; see also, id. at ¶¶ 170-82.) As noted above, MTC acknowledges that transit operating shortfalls can require an operator to reduce service. Indeed, principles of fiscal constraint

discussed above mean that, if MTC is not going to provide the necessary funding to cover AC

Transit's operating shortfall, it must ensure that AC Transit cuts service, at least to the extent that fare increases do not cover that shortfall. It does so by withholding from AC Transit the funds

necessary to operate that service. (See Exhibit 2 at ¶ 20.)

MTC has the ability, the flexibility and the control to cover these operating 41. shortfalls. (See, e.g., Exhibit 1 at ¶¶ 165-69.)

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I declare under penalty of perjury that the	e foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 1st	
of April, 2008 at Los Angeles, California.	Tau Ruli Thomas A. Rubin	S