

*Santa Cruz Metropolitan
Transit District*



Metro Board of Directors Chair, Donna Lind, Issues Statement on Alex Clifford's Departure as Metro CEO/GM

December 3, 2021

Alex Clifford announced at Metro's last regular Board of Director's meeting that he will retire from his position as CEO/GM of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District in January 2022. At that time, Metro will have in place an interim CEO/GM until such time as a permanent CEO/GM is appointed by the Board. On January 31, 2022 he will start his new position as CEO of San Joaquin RTD.

Alex joined Metro over seven and a half years ago. Metro is truly fortunate and grateful that Alex helped guide it through the unprecedented challenges posed first by an existing \$6.3 million structural fiscal deficit and then by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thanks to Alex's steadfast leadership, the transit services that our communities depend on are well-prepared to survive the pandemic, and will emerge equipped with the resources needed to improve service and address the congestion and connectivity issues that we all know will return.

Tackling the structural deficit, with no employee layoffs, and guiding Metro throughout the COVID-19 pandemic – with the utmost concern given to employee and customer safety - and no furloughs or layoffs - were only two of the many accomplishments on Alex's watch.

Alex also, in partnership with his leadership team, fully funded a complex Reserves Plan; established a robust bus replacement plan (reducing the backlog of buses needing to be replaced from 62 to 38); created a number of new fiscally-responsible policies and plans; oversaw the completion of several important public works projects (including the Judy K. Souza Operations building) and the procurement of several key technology projects; created a zero-emission bus plan and began the process of transitioning Metro to zero-emission buses; guided the agency through the purchase of its first four zero emission buses and charging infrastructure (with three more ZEBs coming); initiated the process towards replacing the aging Enterprise Resource Planning system; initiated the process of paying off the unfunded PERS liability; and created and filled key departments and roles within Metro...just to name a few.

Alex also admirably represented Metro through his participation and leadership on California Transit Association (CTA), Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA), California Association for Coordinated Transportation (CalAct), The Bus Coalition, Zero Emission Bus Resource Alliance (ZEBRA), and the American Public Transportation Association (APTA).

A thirty-year leader in the public transit realm, Alex brought to Metro an incredible work ethic and positive attitude, enabling him to address Metro challenges, whether big or small. Alex will be missed very much and the entire Metro Board wishes him well on his next undertaking.

The Metro Board will meet soon to discuss the appointment of an interim CEO/GM and the CEO/GM recruitment process. During the recruitment process, key stakeholders and members of the public will have an opportunity to provide input on the qualities and experience desired in a new Metro CEO/GM.

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Donna Lind is a City Council Member of Scotts Valley, CA and serves as the Chair of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District Board of Directors.

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