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September 8, 2017

The Honorable Jerry Hill
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5035
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 793 (Hill) Competitive bidding: design-build and best value construction contracting—
SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Hill:

On behalf of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, I write in strong support of your measure, Senate Bill 793 that would among other things, add San Mateo County to the list of counties for a best value pilot program for construction projects in excess of one million dollars.

As you are aware, earlier this year our Board approved a \$500 million five-year capital improvement plan for the County. The plan—the County's most ambitious to-date—seeks to directly address critical capital needs identified in the County's 2010 Facilities Master Plan which reviewed use of leased space, aging buildings, public accessibility and navigation, parking, environmental standards and efficiency of employee work spaces. Capital projects, nine in total, range from construction of a new five-story County Office Building to an overhauling of the Health System campus in the city of San Mateo, including the removal of the Health Services Administration Building which dates back to 1954 and which is not seismically secure. When completed, the projects will ultimately improve services to residents, providing better working conditions and tools for County staff and save on maintenance and operation costs.

SB 667 (Migden), Chapter 367, Statutes of 2006, established a best value pilot program for the University of California. Initially authorized for five years, SB 667 allowed the UC San Francisco to award contracts based on the best value for the university. In a report to the Legislature in January 2010, the UC reported that 23 contracts totaling \$158.3 million were issued under the best value pilot program. According to the report, the "University Representatives for all these projects [four completed and two almost completed projects] have been unanimous in their praise of this process that has already demonstrated numerous advantages such as decreased bid protests and communication problems, decreased the need for multiple inspections and re-work, decreased disputes, change order requests, claims and litigation and increased incentives for contractors to perform their work safely and to adhere to high labor and quality standards." Given UC's experience and our this level of investment in these critical capital projects, the County believes that this best value selection process will foster better quality work, less labor and safety problems, less litigation, less administrative oversight and contract/project management staff time, better qualified persons/contractors, better on-time completion, and better on-budget performance.

For these reasons, the County of San Mateo enthusiastically supports this legislation and thanks you for your leadership in this area. Should you have any questions about our position, please contact Connie Juarez-Diroll, Legislative Director (cjuarez-diroll@smcgov.org, 650-599-1341).

Sincerely,



Don Horsley, President
Board of Supervisors

CC: Board of Supervisors
County Manager
County Counsel

