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August 28, 2023

BART Office of the District Secretary
2150 Webster Street, 10th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

To Whom this Matter Concerns:

I am pleased to support Stephanie Noble's application for the Public Member seat on BART's Audit Committee.

I began working with Stephanie in May 2016 when she joined the San José City Auditor's Office, where I worked at the time. Stephanie thrived in the San José City Auditor's Office, conducting and leading a variety of performance audits of city services. In her audit work, Stephanie used technical skills in quantitative and qualitative analysis to review municipal operations and internal controls. She also learned and applied Government Auditing Standards, which provide authoritative guidance to our work as local government auditors.

Seven years after first working with Stephanie, I was thrilled to successfully recruit her to the Oakland City Auditor's Office, where she has been working since June 2023. In Oakland, Stephanie continues the important audit work she performed in San José, but in her new position of Performance Audit Manager, Stephanie has an additional leadership role in designing and leading our office's audit planning. Furthermore, in her new role in our office, Stephanie has already demonstrated her

expert knowledge of, and ability to apply, Government Auditing Standards. Specifically, Stephanie is currently updating and streamlining our office's "quality control system" (i.e., policies, procedures, and prescriptive processes) to align with the most current Government Auditing Standards.

In addition to her technical skills, auditing experience, and understanding of Government Auditing Standards, I can attest to Stephanie's inter-personal skills, which were a leading factor to my recruiting her to the Oakland City Auditor's Office. Stephanie has maintained effective professional relationships and thrives in groups of people with diverse backgrounds, personalities, and working styles; and she has regularly worked with staff of all levels to complete difficult assignments. Stephanie is also experienced in preparing and delivering written, oral, and visual presentations targeted to co-workers, senior staff, elected officials, and members of the public. She is comfortable in various settings including private briefings, meetings, and public events. I would imagine these abilities would benefit BART's Audit Committee.

As her supervisor, I admire what Stephanie brings to her role as a public sector auditor, and public servant, and I have the highest confidence that she would be an outstanding contribution to BART's Audit Committee.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions about Stephanie or this letter, or would like to further discuss her candidacy (MHouston@Oaklandca.gov; 510-238-3114). In the meantime, I hope you give strong consideration to Stephanie's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "MHouston", with a stylized, cursive script.

Michael C. Houston
Assistant City Auditor