

TOLL ENFORCEMENT ORDINANCE ADOPTION NO. SJH2024-01
AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SAN JOAQUIN
HILLS TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR AGENCY RELATING TO THE
ADMINISTRATION OF TOLLS AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF TOLL
VIOLATIONS ON THE SAN JOAQUIN HILLS TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin Hills Transportation Corridor Agency (the "Agency") is authorized, pursuant to California Government Code Section 66484.3(f) and California Streets and Highways Code Section 31121, to fix the rate of tolls and other charges to be collected from users of the San Joaquin Hills Transportation Corridor, designated State Route 73 (the "Corridor") and to do such acts as are necessary or desirable in connection with the duties and powers conferred on it, including the establishment of penalties for violations of the toll requirements; and

WHEREAS, Section 23302.5 of the California Vehicle Code ("Code") provides that it is unlawful for a person to evade or attempt to evade the payment of tolls or other charges on any vehicular crossing or toll highway, and provides that such acts are subject to civil penalties; and

WHEREAS, subpart (d) of Section 23302 of the Code provides that for toll highways where the issuing agency, as defined in Section 40250, permits pay-by-plate payment of tolls and other charges in accordance with the policies adopted by the issuing agency, and where electronic toll collection is the only other method of paying tolls or other charges, it is prima facie evidence of a violation of Section 23302 for a driver to drive a vehicle onto the toll highway without either a transponder or other electronic toll payment device associated with a valid Automatic Vehicle Identification Account with a balance sufficient to pay those tolls or valid vehicle license plates properly attached to the vehicle, and pursuant to subpart (e) of Section 23302 of the Code, "pay-by-plate toll payment" means an issuing agency's use of on-road vehicle license plate identification policies adopted by the issuing agency; and

WHEREAS, Sections 40250, et seq. of Chapter 1 of Division 17 of the Code provide for enforcement of civil penalties for violation of a statute, regulation, or ordinance governing the evasion of tolls under the Code, including Code Section 23302.5 and under a federal or state statute or regulation, and under an ordinance enacted by a local authority including a joint powers authority in accordance with administrative procedures set forth in Article 4 of Chapter 1 of Division 17 of the Code; and

WHEREAS, on May 9, 1996 the Agency adopted ordinance S96-04 making the passing through a Corridor toll collection facility without payment of the proper toll a civil violation, and establishing Penalties for such violation and the procedures for issuance of violation notices and enforcement to be consistent with the new provisions of the code; and

WHEREAS, the Agency's Toll Enforcement Ordinance was subsequently amended by the adoption of Ordinance SJH2013-01 to adjust Agency's policies and procedures for administration of tolls along with the Toll Evasion Penalty and the Delinquent Toll Evasion Penalty in the Schedule of Penalties, Schedule A; and

WHEREAS, the availability of new technologies and the institution of nationwide toll interoperability standards made it necessary and desirable for the Agency to amend Ordinance SJH2013-01 to reflect the Agency’s deployment of such new and improved technologies and business practices; and

WHEREAS, the enactment of AB 2594 (2022) introduced changes to Chapter 13 of Division 11 and Chapter 1 of Division 17, modifying procedures for toll evasion violations starting July 1, 2024, making it necessary and desirable for the Agency to amend Ordinance FE2018-01 to maintain its alignment with the Code; and

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AGENCY DOES HEREBY ORDAIN THAT ORDINANCE SJH2018-01 AS ADOPTED October 11, 2018 RELATING TO ADMINISTRATION OF TOLLS AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF TOLL VIOLATIONS FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN HILLS TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR IS REPLACED IN ITS ENTIRETY ON JUNE 30, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. by the following:

Section 1. Definitions. The following terms shall have the meanings as set forth below:

- (a) “Account” shall mean an Automatic Vehicle Identification Account established with Agency.
- (b) "Agency" shall mean the San Joaquin Hills Transportation Corridor Agency.
- (c) “Automatic Vehicle Identification Account” shall mean an account for the electronic payment of tolls incurred by vehicles registered to this account and automatically identified by the Agency’ electronic toll collection system, that is established by the patron with Agency, or that is established by the patron with another operator of a toll facility who has an agreement with Agency for the interoperable processing of tolls incurred by their customers with registered accounts for the payment of tolls.
- (d) “Code” shall mean the California Vehicle Code.
- (e) "Corridor" shall mean the San Joaquin Hills Transportation Corridor.
- (f) “Department” shall mean the California Department of Motor Vehicles.
- (g) “Electronic Toll collection” shall mean the collection of tolls through the use of valid Automatic Vehicle Identification account or an online toll pre-payment or post-payment, as provided in Section 2, below.
- (h) "Motorist" shall mean the registered owner, rentee, lessee and/or driver of a Vehicle.
- (i) “Notice of Violation” shall mean the notice of toll evasion Violation issued by Agency if a Violation is detected by any means (including automated

device, video image, visual observation, or otherwise) and the subject Vehicle is not stopped.

- (j) "Toll Enforcement Officer" shall mean any member of the California Highway Patrol or any employee or contractor of Agency whose duty is to enforce the payment of tolls.
- (k) "Vehicle" shall mean any vehicle as defined in California Vehicle Code Section 670.
- (l) "Violation" means the commission of an activity proscribed in Section 3(a) hereof.
- (m) "Toll Evasion Penalty" or "Penalty" shall have the same meaning as set forth in Vehicle Code Section 40252 subdivision (b).
- (n) "Toll Payment Procedures" means the written procedures for implementing Electronic Toll Collection issued by the Agency's Chief Toll Operations Officer as set forth in the Agency's Business Rules and/or Standard Operating Procedures.

Section 2. Electronic Toll Collection. The Chief Toll Operations Officer is authorized to issue written procedures for implementing the system for Electronic Toll Collection for the payment of Corridor tolls consistent with this Ordinance and such Board direction as may be given from time to time. The Toll Payment Procedures shall establish the methods by which Corridor toll payment can be made automatically via a valid Automatic Vehicle Identification Account, including the types of registered electronic toll payment accounts and options available to Motorists through the Agency.

Additionally, Motorists may make toll pre-payments or post-payments in order to avoid receiving a Notice of Violation pursuant to Section 4(c) of this Ordinance.

- (a) FasTrak Account. To establish an Account with Agency, a Motorist must register for a FasTrak Account prior to traveling the Corridor or within the grace period afforded for toll post-payments pursuant to the Toll Payment Procedures. An applicant for an Account shall execute an application and License Agreement providing for the terms and conditions of use of the Account and establishing a FasTrak Account with the Agency. The Account holder will be supplied a sticker tag/transponder and must properly mount the sticker tag/transponder on the Vehicle in order for tolls to be deducted from the Account when passing through a toll point. Account holders will have the option to purchase a switchable transponder for use in declaring occupancy counts on applicable facilities.
- (b) Account Payment Types. FasTrak Accounts include the following three methods of toll payment:
 - (i) Prepaid Payment Method. The Prepaid Account customer must

make a credit card, cash or check payment to open and replenish the Prepaid Account. The payment and replenishment rules for such accounts, including opening balance, replenishment threshold and replenishment amount shall be set forth in the Toll Payment Procedures.

(ii) Charge Payment Method. The Charge Account customer is not required to have a prepaid balance but is required to maintain a valid credit card or bank account number on file with the Agency. The Agency will regularly charge the credit card account or debit the bank account as toll trips are taken in accordance with the Toll Payment Procedures.

(iii) Invoice Account Method. The Invoice Account customer is not required to have prepaid balance nor a credit card or bank account on file with the Agency. The Agency will invoice the holder of an Invoice Account periodically for all tolls incurred during the invoice period. Invoices are due immediately upon receipt and are past due if not paid within the time period set forth in the Toll Payment Procedures.

(c) Toll Pre-payment – Post-payment. A customer who enters the Corridor without a valid Automatic Vehicle Identification Account may avoid a Violation by making pre-payment of the toll amount in accordance with the Toll Payment Procedures up to five days before incurring the toll. A customer who enters the Corridor without a valid Automatic Vehicle Identification Account may cure a Violation by making payment within a five-day grace period after incurring a toll by contacting the Agency and making a payment, in accordance with the Toll Payment Procedures. Establishment of a Automatic Vehicle Identification Account is not required to make pre-payment or post- payments.

Section 3. Liability for Failure to Pay Toll.

(a) No person shall cause a Vehicle to pass through or attempt to pass through a Corridor toll collection facility without payment of the proper toll for the Vehicle.

(b) If the payment method for a toll incurred by an Account holder fails (cash balance is overdrawn, credit card declines, bank account debit is not honored, or invoice is past-due), the Account shall be suspended and outstanding transactions will, at the Agency's discretion, escalate to Violations. Subsequent transactions after the Account is suspended will immediately escalate to Violations. If an invoice issued to an Invoice Account holder is past-due, all transactions billed on the past-due invoice may be identified in a single Violation Notice, with each separate transaction carrying its own Violation penalty pursuant to Section 4 of this

Ordinance.

- (c) Except as provided herein, the registered owner(s) and the driver, rentee or lessee of a Vehicle which is the subject of any Violation shall be jointly and severally liable for the Penalties imposed under this Ordinance, unless the registered owner can demonstrate, as provided in Section 5 hereof, that the Vehicle was used without the express or implied consent of the registered owner. A registered owner who pays any Penalty pursuant to this Ordinance shall have the right to recover the same from the driver, rentee or lessee.
- (d) A Motorist who is not the owner of the Vehicle may contest the Notice of Violation in accordance with this Ordinance.
- (e) Any Motorist assessed a Penalty for a Violation shall be deemed to be charged with a non-criminal civil violation.

Section 4. Penalties and Enforcement of Violations.

- (a) The Penalties for a Violation of this Ordinance shall be the amounts set forth in the Schedule of Penalties, attached hereto as Schedule A and incorporated by reference herein. The Schedule of Penalties may, in the discretion of the Agency's Chief Executive Officer, be amended, from time to time by the Agency, but may not be greater than the amounts established under Code Section 40258 as the maximum Penalties for civil toll evasion violations. Subject to the limitations stated above, the Agency's Board of Directors may establish late payment Penalties and other related charges for Violations, except in the event the driver is arrested pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 40300) of Chapter 2 of the Code, in which case the civil procedure for enforcement of violations that is established by this Ordinance shall not apply. Penalties assessed and paid pursuant to this subsection shall be remitted to the Agency.
- (b) The Agency may designate certain of its employees or contractors as Toll Enforcement Officers. Training and qualifications of the employees or contractors for such designation shall be determined by the Agency. Designation as a Toll Enforcement Officer does not provide the Toll Enforcement Officer with the power of arrest. Any member of the California Highway Patrol patrolling the Corridor shall be deemed to be a Toll Enforcement Officer for purposes of enforcing the payment of tolls.
- (c) If a Violation is detected by any means (including automated device, video image, visual observation, or otherwise) and the subject Vehicle is not stopped, a notice of toll violation shall be forwarded to the registered owner within 21 days, unless accurate information concerning the identity and address of the registered owner is not available within 21 days or the registered owner is a "repeat violator" as that term is defined in Section 40254(a) of the Code. If accurate information concerning the identity and

address of the registered owner is not available within 21 days of the violation, the Agency shall have up to 66 days to forward the notice of toll violation. If the registered owner is a repeat violator, the Agency shall have up to 90 days to forward the notice of toll violation.

- (d) In the case of joint ownership of a Vehicle, the Notice of Violation shall be issued to the first name appearing in the registration. If a Notice of Violation is issued in person to the driver of a Vehicle, the driver of the Vehicle shall be deemed the agent of the registered owner for purposes of delivery of the Notice of Violation. The Notice of Violation shall contain:
 - (i) The date and time of issuance.
 - (ii) The name and address of the person to whom the Notice of Violation is issued.
 - (iii) The date, time and location of the alleged Violation.
 - (iv) The alphanumeric designation of the license plate on the Vehicle that was used in the alleged Violation(s) and, if applicable, the registration expiration date and the make of the Vehicle.
 - (v) The Section of the California Vehicle Code alleged to have been violated.
 - (vi) The procedure and deadline for the Motorist to follow in order to pay the penalty or to contest the Notice of Violation (and to appeal an adverse decision), including the time and place for appearance by the registered owner.
 - (vii) The amount of the applicable Penalty for the Violation and the further Penalty to be paid in the event the Penalty imposed with the Notice of Violation is not paid timely.
 - (viii) A statement that there will be additional costs and fees incurred by the Motorist according to the local jurisdiction rules if collection is pursued through court action.

Additional information may be included in the Notice of Violation in the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer of the Agency.

- (e) If the description of the Vehicle in the Notice of Violation does not match the corresponding information on the registration card for that Vehicle, the

Agency may, on written request of the Motorist, cancel the Notice of Violation without the necessity of appearance by that person.

- (f) If after a copy of the Notice of Violation has been sent to the Motorist, the Agency determines that, in the interest of justice, the Notice of Violation should be dismissed, the Agency shall dismiss the charges and so notify the Motorist.
- (g) If the full amount of the Penalty is received by the person authorized to receive the deposit of the Penalty and there is no contest as to that Violation, proceedings under this Ordinance shall terminate.

Section 5. Failure to Pay Toll Evasion Penalties.

- (a) If the payment of a Penalty is not received by the Agency as specified in the Notice of Violation by the time and date fixed on the Notice of Violation under Section 4, above the Agency shall deliver by personal service or first-class mail to the registered owner of the Vehicle a Notice of Delinquent Violation.
- (b) The Agency shall establish a procedure for providing, upon request, a photo static copy of the original Notice of Violation or an electronically produced facsimile of the original Notice of Violation. The Agency may charge a fee sufficient to recover the actual cost of providing the copy, to be established by the Chief Executive Officer, not to exceed two dollars (\$2).
- (c) The Notice of Delinquent Violation shall contain the information required to be contained in the original Notice of Violation and, additionally shall contain a notice to the registered owner that, unless the registered owner pays the Penalties or contests the citation pursuant to the procedure set forth in the Notice of Violation within 30 days after mailing of the Notice of Delinquent Toll Violation, or completes and files an Affidavit of Non-liability in compliance with this Section and Section 4(d), the Violation shall be considered to be a debt due and owing the Agency, and the Agency may seek recovery in any lawful manner, including non-renewal action against the Vehicle's registration.
- (d) The Notice of Delinquent Violation shall contain, or be accompanied with, an Affidavit of Non-liability and information regarding what constitutes non-liability, information as to the effect of executing the Affidavit, and instructions for returning the Affidavit to the Agency. If the Affidavit of Non-liability is returned to the Agency within 30 days of the mailing of the Notice of Violation or Notice of Delinquent Toll Violation together with proof that either (i) the driver at the time of the Violation did not possess express or implied authority to drive the Vehicle, or (ii) the registered owner

served has made a bona fide sale or transfer of the Vehicle and has delivered possession thereof to the purchaser prior to the date of the alleged Violation in compliance with Section 5602 of the Code, and the Agency is satisfied with such proof, the Agency may terminate proceedings against the originally served Motorist and proceed against the unauthorized driver at the time of the Violation, or the new owner of the Vehicle. To establish the defense enumerated in clause (i), above, the registered owner may provide a stolen vehicle police report or other evidence which the Agency will evaluate and in its discretion determine whether the defense has been established.

Section 6. Payment After Notice of Delinquent Violation.

- (a) If a Motorist, or agent of a Motorist who was served with a Notice of Delinquent Violation pursuant to Section 5, deposits the demanded Penalties with the Agency, after the Notice of Delinquent Violation is issued for delivery, the Agency shall follow the procedures set forth in Section 40266 of the Code.

Section 7. Contest of Notice of Violation or Delinquent Violation.

- (a) Any Motorist who wishes to contest a Notice of Violation or Notice of Delinquent Violation may do so without having to deposit the toll or Penalty. If a Motorist timely contests a Notice of Violation or Notice of Delinquent Violation, the Agency shall conduct an administrative investigation, which shall consist of reviewing the evidence on which the alleged violation was based, including any photographs of the alleged violation, reviewing the Department's registered owner information, and confirming that a full and complete payment was not timely made. The results of the administrative investigation shall be mailed or emailed to the Motorist.
- (b) The Agency shall establish a fair and impartial administrative review procedure for any Motorist who wishes to timely contest a Notice of Violation or a Notice of Delinquent Violation after receiving the results of an administrative investigation. Such procedure shall be in accordance with Section 40255 of the Code and shall be implemented by the Agency's Chief Executive Officer who shall have the authority to update and revise such procedure from time to time as the Chief Executive Officer deems necessary.
- (c) Any Motorist who wishes to contest a Notice of Violation or Notice of Delinquent Violation shall be provided with a copy of the administrative review procedure and invited to request a hearing. A properly requested hearing shall be held within 90 calendar days following the receipt of a request for administrative hearing, excluding any time tolled pursuant to Article 4 of Chapter 1 of Division 17 of the Code. In the event a hold has been placed on the renewal of a Motorist's Vehicle registration under

Section 4770 of the Code, then the hearing shall be held within 30 days following a proper request, provided the Motorist requesting the hearing cooperates in its scheduling. Prior to filing any request to intercept monies due to the Motorist from the Franchise Tax Board in accordance with Government Code Sections 12419.5 et seq. the Agency shall provide 45 days' advance written notice, and the hearing on the review shall be scheduled prior to the filing of the request to intercept.

Section 8. **Payment Plans.** The Agency's Chief Toll Operations Officer shall establish a payment plan policy for offering payment plans to qualified Motorists for purposes of resolving Penalties. The policy shall comply with the requirements set forth in Section 40269.5 of the Code. The Agency's Chief Toll Operations officer may also authorize payment plans on terms that the officer deems reasonable even if the Motorist does not qualify under Section 40269.5 of the Code.

Section 9. **Collection of Unpaid Penalties.** Except as otherwise provided in Sections 40268 and 40269 of the Code, the Agency shall be authorized to proceed under one or more of the following options for the collection of unpaid Penalties:

- (a) The Agency may file an itemization of unpaid Penalties (including administrative and service fees) with the Department for collection with the registration of the Vehicle pursuant to Section 4770.
- (b) If more than four hundred dollars (\$400) in unpaid Penalties and other charges have been accrued by any Motorist or registered owner, the Agency may file proof of that fact with the court with the same effect as a civil judgment. Execution may be levied, and other measures may be taken for the collection of the judgment as are authorized for the collection of any unpaid civil judgment entered against a defendant in an action on a debtor. The court may assess costs against a judgment debtor to be paid upon satisfaction of the judgment. Prior to seeking entry of judgment, the Agency shall send a notice by first-class mail (and by e-mail, if known) to the Motorist or registered owner indicating that a judgment shall be entered for the unpaid Penalties and that after 30 days from the date of the mailing of the notice, the judgment shall have the same effect as an entry of judgment against a judgment debtor. The notice shall include all information required by Section 40267 of the Code and shall also advise the Motorist of the Motorist's right to request an administrative review. The filing fee and any costs of collection shall be added to the judgment amount.
- (c) If the registration of the Vehicle has not been renewed for 60 days beyond the renewal date, and the notice has not been collected by the Department pursuant to Section 4770 of the Code, the Agency may file proof of unpaid Penalties with the court with the same effect as a civil judgment as provided in subdivision (b), except that if the amount of the unpaid Penalties is not more than four hundred dollars (\$400), the filing fee shall be collectible by the court from the debtor.

- (d) The Agency may file a request to intercept a Motorist's tax refund from the Franchise Tax Board in accordance with Government Code Sections 12419.5 et seq.
- (e) The Agency may contract with a collection agency to collect unpaid Penalties and other charges.

Section 10. Termination of Proceedings. The Agency shall terminate proceedings on the Notice of Delinquent Violations upon the occurrence of the circumstances specified in Section 40269 of the Code.

Section 11. Other Notices. Nothing herein shall prohibit the Agency from establishing informal methods of notifying Motorists of Violations and from collecting Penalties for Violations through such means.

Section 12. Implementation. The Chief Executive Officer of the Agency is hereby authorized and directed to develop such procedures, forms, documents and directives which may be necessary to implement the terms of this Ordinance.

Section 13. Severability. If any provision of this Ordinance is determined to be void or invalid by any administrative or judicial tribunal, said provision shall be deemed severable and such invalidation shall not invalidate the entirety of this Ordinance or any other provision hereof.

ADOPTED BY THE SAN JOAQUIN HILLS TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR AGENCY ON MAY 9, 2024.



Janine Hefl, Chair
San Joaquin Hills Transportation Corridor Agency

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ATTEST:

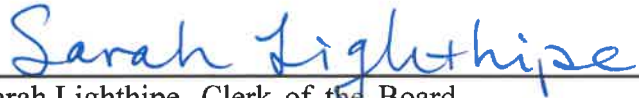
I, Sarah Lighthipe, Clerk of the Board of the San Joaquin Hills Transportation Corridor Agency hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance SJH2024-01 was duly adopted on May 9, 2024, by the Board of Directors of the San Joaquin Hills Transportation Corridor Agency by the following vote:

Yes: Janine Heft, David Penaloza, Cynthia Conners, Mike Frost (Alternate), Nick Anas (Alternate), Will O'Neil (Alternate), Richard Hurt, Patricia Kelley, Stephanie Oddo, John Taylor, Patricia Welch-Foster (Alternate)

No: None

Absent: Farrah Khan, John Stephens

Abstain: None



Sarah Lighthipe
Sarah Lighthipe, Clerk of the Board
San Joaquin Hills Transportation Corridor Agency

Schedule "A"

	<u>Schedule of Penalties</u>	
Toll Evasion Penalty		\$57.50
Delinquent Toll Evasion Penalty		\$42.50