

May 21, 2026

Terra Curtis, Director
Consumer Protection and Enforcement Division
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3214

RE: MADD California Letter of Support for Waymo

Dear Director Curtis,

Since 2019, impaired driving deaths nationwide have risen by 22%. In California alone, more than 4,000 people are killed in vehicle crashes each year, with one-third of those fatalities involving an alcohol-impaired driver. While alcohol remains the leading cause of impaired driving crashes, emerging threats, including cannabis and polysubstance use, as well as impaired riding on motorcycles, scooters, and e-bikes - are compounding the crisis.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving's (MADD) mission is to end impaired driving and to support the victims of this violent crime. Meeting today's and tomorrow's challenges require more than yesterday's tools. The next wave of prevention must include innovative approaches that reach people where they live, learn, and connect.

We are writing to you today because Waymo is requesting to expand its service area for farmed autonomous vehicle transportation, increasing the reach of our collective missions to end preventable deaths caused by human drivers and increase safe mobility options within our communities. MADD is supportive of Waymo's safe expansion into 18 counties in northern and southern California.

As the nation's leading nonprofit organization serving victims of drunk and drug-impaired driving, MADD recognizes the critical role technology can play in preventing individuals from making the illegal and often deadly decision to drive while impaired. Road violence caused by human choice and error continues to claim thousands of lives annually and leaves countless others with permanent physical and psychological injuries.

The severity of this crisis demands bold and innovative solutions. Autonomous vehicle technology has the potential to significantly reduce impaired driving and prevent the tragic loss of life that devastates families and communities. Advanced vehicle technologies, including autonomous vehicles, are a key pillar of MADD's mission to end impaired driving for good.

MADD supports the safe development and deployment of autonomous technology and values our shared mission with companies like Waymo, as well as our other partners including Uber and Smart Start. Together, these collaborations reflect a shared commitment to leveraging innovation and technology to prevent impaired driving and improve roadway safety for all.

Thank you for considering Waymo's expansion request. Waymo's technology holds promise not only in reducing traffic injuries and fatalities, but also in supporting mass transit integration, providing safer transportation alternatives for all Californians.

Sincerely,



Patricia Rillera
Regional Executive Director, California