

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

May 28, 2026

Dear Director Curtis,

I am writing on behalf of the National Federation of the Blind of California, San Diego Chapter in support of Waymo's CPUC Driverless Deployment permit application.

The National Federation of the Blind of California represents blind and low-vision residents across the state. Transportation access is central to the independence and quality of life of our members, and affordable, reliable options remain limited for many in our community.

We, among many other organizations, supported Waymo's January application to expand passenger service in Northern and Southern California and offer rides in Ojai vehicles. As we stated in our original letter, we believe Waymo has built a technology that achieves remarkable road safety outcomes and passenger service experiences. Our members report that their experiences with Waymo's services are safe, accessible, and provide a level of independence that other transportation options have not matched.

Autonomous vehicles offer solutions to current transportation priorities facing California, including improved safety, environmental quality, and expanded transportation options for various populations. By providing an affordable and convenient alternative to move around the state, transportation can come closer to becoming a service that includes a diverse set of passengers in an equitable fashion.

We appreciate Commission Staff's diligence in evaluating Waymo's application and Waymo's transparency in providing additional information as part of its supplemental advice letter. We are eager to see Waymo's application approved and are concerned the lengthy review process is delaying bringing Waymo's services to additional riders in California. Every additional month without approval is a month that blind Californians in communities not yet served by Waymo go without a transportation option that already exists and works elsewhere in the state.

To offer these solutions to California residents, the California Public Utilities Commission should encourage and allow Waymo's autonomous vehicle service. We urge the Commission to expeditiously approve Waymo's advice letter.

Sincerely,
Julia Cardenas
President, National Federation of the Blind of California, San Diego Chapter