

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Please review, edit to your liking, sign, delete this header, and email the letter on your business letterhead to Brittney B. Sowell at [bsowell@sunline.org](mailto:bsowell@sunline.org) by end of day **Tuesday, January 14.**
  2. Any questions? Please call Brittney B. Sowell at 760-343-3456 ext. 1103. Thank you for supporting SunLine Transit Agency's efforts to apply for funding under CalSTA's Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program.
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January 2, 2020

California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA)  
915 Capitol Mall, Suite 350B  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP)

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of Insert name of agency, I would like to offer this letter of support for Sunline Transit Agency's "Solar Microgrid to Hydrogen Project" Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) grant application. The entire State of California, if not the world, stands to benefit from this innovative and pioneering project of harnessing solar energy to produce hydrogen fuel and storing electricity onsite to charge electric buses when fleets are available for service at night. This project is a critical component of implementing California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Innovative Clean Transit (ICT) mandate of introducing zero-emission buses. SunLine is poised to accomplish this goal by 2030, in ten years.

Additionally, introduction of the new CommuterLink Route 10 bus service between Indio and San Bernardino, fueled by this Solar Microgrid will connect residents of Coachella Valley to San Bernardino Valley, specifically to San Bernardino Transit Center (SBTC)/Metrolink Station, a regional multimodal transit hub and California State University San Bernardino (CSUSB). This broader scope to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across southern California and the expansion of zero-emission fleets would provide a safe, clean and reliable transit interconnectivity for the region's residents while simultaneously increasing transit ridership, reducing greenhouse gases and congestion. Currently, there is no viable public transportation option from Coachella Valley to access regional educational, medical, employment and entertainment centers in the San Bernardino Valley, western Riverside County, and Los Angeles and Orange counties. This service will establish a convenient one seat public transit option to SBTC/Metrolink Station and CSUSB transit hubs, two currently unserved regional destinations and multimodal transit hubs.

With the new CommuterLink Route 10, residents of the Coachella Valley will be able to connect to Metrolink train service to Los Angeles and Orange counties, sbX Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service to VA Hospital and Loma Linda University Medical Center, Route 200 express bus service to Orange County/Disneyland via downtown Riverside, Galleria Mall at Tyler and La Sierra Metrolink Station utilizing the high occupancy toll lanes. Additionally, it will provide multiple transit connections to local bus routes serving the San Bernardino Valley and transit connections to Victor Valley and the San Bernardino mountains. Lastly, the improvements to SunLine local Routes 20, 80, 81, 91 and 111 will benefit low-

income, disadvantaged communities in Indio, Mecca, and Thermal and it will improve access to this CommuterLink service.

SunLine Transit Agency is a leader in alternative fuel technologies and we stand to benefit from this project to accomplish our collective goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing transit ridership, enhancing transit/rail interconnectivity and improving safety through interconnectivity at established multimodal hubs.

We strongly support this inspirational and pioneering project and the funding request to implement it. The GHG benefits and the technical knowhow that would result from this project will benefit the entire transit industry, it is immeasurable and it will help create a path for transit agencies in California and regulatory bodies alike to implement CARB's ICT mandate. I hope you will join our agency in supporting their grant application. If you have any questions regarding our support, please feel free to contact me at (XXX) XXX-XXXX.

Sincerely,

Name, Title

Agency Name