



May 10, 2023

California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Draft 2023 State Rail Plan Comment Letter

Dear Caltrans DRMT:

The San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Policy Council (Policy Council) greatly appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft 2023 State Rail Plan. The Policy Council strongly supports the comments on the Altamont Corridor (and other related connecting sections) that were developed jointly by the Tri-Valley – San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority (TVSJVRRA), San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRRRC), and the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJJPA) requesting that the Draft 2023 State Rail Plan maps, tables and “Project Development Goals” be updated to identify:

1. **2027 Near Term Plan Goals** – Completion of the Valley Link Rail Project initial operating phase in the Altamont Corridor from the “Tri-Valley Hub” node to a new “Mountain House” node consistent with its delivery schedule and with continuation of the service frequency of every 15 minutes and regional rail service mode.
2. **2032 Mid-Term Plan Regional Goals** – Completion of the Valley Link Rail Project in the Altamont Corridor from the “Mountain House” node to the “North Lathrop” node consistent with the 2021 CEQA EIR and with continuation of the service frequency of every 15 minutes and regional rail service mode.
3. **Long-Term Regional Goals** – The identification of ½ hourly regional rail service frequency in the Altamont Corridor from the “North Lathrop” node to the “Stockton” node based upon comment from the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority/San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJJPA/SJRRRC).

The San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Policy Council strongly supports providing enhanced passenger rail and commuter services connecting the San Joaquin Valley to the Bay Area and Southern California, and maintaining and increasing funding for intercity and commuter passenger rail for ACE, San Joaquins, and Valley Link.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Poythress".

Robert Poythress
Chair of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Policy Council
Madera County Supervisor

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