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May 5, 2023

Javier Almaguer
Senior Environmental Scientist
2015 Shields Avenue, Suite 100
Fresno CA, 93726-5428

RE: Support for the State Route 99 Tulare City Safety and Goods Movement and Paige Ave Interchange and Multi-modal Improvements Project Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment

Dear Mr. Almaguer,

On behalf of the Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC), please accept this letter of support for the State Route 99 (SR 99) Tulare City Safety and Goods Movement and Paige Ave Interchange and Multi-modal Improvements Project Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment. The Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) in partnership with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the City of Tulare and the International Agri-Center have leveraged public and private funds in order to advance this important project development.

This project will improve safety, reduce congestion, increase connectivity, improve travel-time reliability of time-sensitive goods, and preserve acceptable facility operation on SR 99. The 2020 annual daily truck traffic is 25% of total traffic and the number of truck trips is expected to double within 20 years. Traffic projections indicate current capacity will be exceeded within 10 years, resulting in greater delay and congestion such that queuing at existing ramp-end intersections will back up onto the freeway mainline. Currently, the Paige Ave interchange provides unsafe and incomplete pedestrian and no bicycle facilities. The proposed project would provide enhanced multi-modal options for traveling between the east and west side of the City, linking a disadvantaged residential community with commercial and industrial job centers that are currently disconnected from multi-modal access.

Completion of this vital project on SR 99 achieves goals beyond the borders of the Tulare region but of those important to the rest of the San Joaquin Valley and California. SR 99 is known as the backbone of California, it is a major goods movement state highway connecting southern and northern California through the major cities of the San

Member Agencies: County of Madera, City of Madera, City of Chowchilla

Joaquin Valley. SR 99 is on the National Primary Freight Network and has high truck volumes. Adverse impacts from congestion, fatal accidents, and poor air quality are improved through the completion of projects like the SR 99 Tulare City Safety and Goods Movement and Paige Ave Interchange and Multi-modal Improvements Project.

The MCTC supports the SR 99 Tulare City Safety and Goods Movement and Paige Ave Interchange and Multi-modal Improvements Project and the thorough effort put towards preparing its Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PTaylor', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Patricia Taylor
Executive Director
Madera County Transportation Commission