

May 1, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington DC, 20590

Subject: Support for 2024 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Application:
Union Pacific (Fresno Subdivision) Ceres to Turlock Double Tracking Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC) supports the application by the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRRRC) to the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) 2024 Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant (MPDG) competitive grant program for the Union Pacific (Fresno Subdivision) Ceres to Turlock Double Tracking Project (Project).

MCTC understands the Project will construct a new, second mainline track and complete track upgrades on a portion of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Fresno Subdivision between milepost (MP) 117.4 (in Ceres) and MP 128.2 (in Turlock), including culvert, under crossing, and at-grade crossing improvements. The Project aligns with the MPDG program criteria by constructing freight rail improvements that will increase safety, modernize core infrastructure, improve system operations and reliability, reduce transportation-related pollution, and benefit a federally designated Area of Persistent Poverty, Historically Disadvantaged Community, and Opportunity Zone, as well as a state designated Disadvantaged Community, Economically Distressed Area, and Low-Income Community. The Project is a critical part of the "Valley Rail" passenger rail expansion program that will enable Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) service to operate between Ceres and Turlock, substantially increasing the project benefits.

Our agency recognizes the Union Pacific (Fresno Subdivision) Ceres to Turlock Double Tracking Project as a significant investment in freight rail infrastructure that enables California communities, such as ours, to build vital multimodal infrastructure.

SJRRRC is requesting \$75 million in grant funding for the Union Pacific (Fresno Subdivision) Ceres to Turlock Double Tracking Project. SJRRRC has secured a total of \$92.2 million in state matching funding for the Project.

MCTC would like to thank USDOT for its consideration and welcomes the opportunity to support SJRRRC in the pursuit of this Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'PAT', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Patricia Taylor
Executive Director
Madera County Transportation Commission