



2001 Howard Road, Suite 201
Madera, California 93637

Office: 559-675-0721 Facsimile: 559-675-9328
Website: www.maderactc.org

February 23, 2022

The Honorable Elissa Konove
Acting Secretary, California State Transportation Agency
915 Capitol Mall, Suite 350B
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: 2022 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) Application for the SJRRC/SJJPA Project

Dear Acting Secretary Konove,

The Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC) is writing to express our strong support for the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRRC) and San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJJPA) grant application requesting funding \$164 million in year of expenditure (YOE) for the ACE Extension from Ceres to Turlock, \$114 million (in YOE) to extend the planned San Joaquins 9th Daily Round Trip between Natomas and Stockton to Fresno, and \$1 million for Network Integration Planning Funds for the SJRRC/SJJPA. This application is an expansion of the funded "Valley Rail" Program.

Improved passenger rail is an essential component of the future of our transportation network, and this critical public works investment will benefit communities throughout the Northern California Megaregion and Central Valley. The proposed ACE and San Joaquins projects will enhance connections for residents and visitors traveling between Sacramento, the Bay Area, and the fast-growing San Joaquin Valley

The proposed projects will bring significant benefits for the Northern California Megaregion and the Central Valley:

- Direct access to Sacramento, the Bay Area, Bakersfield, and all the markets. The ACE extension to Turlock and expanded train options along San Joaquins will connect people to 700,000 jobs within 2 miles of the ACE and San Joaquins stations alone.
- The ACE extension between Ceres and Turlock is a necessary next step to extend ACE to Merced and connect with future HSR Interim Service.
- Better frequency on the existing San Joaquins route between Sacramento and Fresno. This increase in San Joaquins service (and the increases to come in the future) will provide greater connectivity to future HSR Interim Service at Merced, enabling the service to become a more useful and reliable piece of the regional network.
- Reduced air pollution, GHG emissions, and VMT. Providing options for mode shift for intercity and commuter rail trips will be essential with the expected continued population growth in the Central Valley.

MCTC strongly supports this application for improved passenger rail. This project as an important strategy to reduce congestion, improve quality of life, promote transit-oriented development, improve

access to disadvantage communities, and pursue a comprehensive and more sustainable transportation network for our future.

Thank you for considering the SJRRC/SJPA grant application.

Sincerely,

Tom Wheeler
Chair of the Madera County Transportation Commission
Madera County Supervisor, District 5