



Mr. David Kim
California State Transportation Agency
915 Capitol Mall, Suite 350B
Sacramento, CA 95814

January 28, 2021

RE: Distribution of Federal H.R. 133 Highway Funds for California

Dear Secretary Kim:

The San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Policy Council (Policy Council) is thankful for the partnership with the State of California as we collaboratively work together to ensure our multi-modal transportation infrastructure continues to be safe and reliable while putting thousands of Californians to work to assist with the economic recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of the *Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act*, H.R. 133, which was signed into law on December 27, 2020, California will receive approximately \$900 million of the \$10 billion that is provided for states through the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program. Per H.R. 133, funds can be programmed to STBG eligible projects as well as for preventative maintenance, routine maintenance, operations, and personnel.

Similar to the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the Policy Council requests that the \$900 million identified for California be allocated to regional agencies through the traditional STBG formula which provides flexible funding to help deliver critical projects. H.R.133 allocates STBG funds directly to large Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) as direct recipients of funds. We respectfully request that small MPOs also be direct recipients of STBG funds. To expedite project delivery and economic relief, especially in smaller regions, we ask that the State also consider exchanging the federal STBG funds for state funds for agencies that participate in the STBG State Exchange program. Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies have shovel-ready projects that can utilize funding immediately. These projects address safety, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, equity and provide multi-modal options for all users to help strengthen our transportation network.

If you have any questions, please contact Terri King, Chair of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies' Directors' Committee, at (559) 852-2678 or terri.king@co.kings.ca.us.

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

(559) 266-6222

(559) 314-6015

1401 19th Street, Suite 300
Bakersfield, CA 93301

<http://sjvcogs.org/>

Chair
Supervisor Robert Poythress
Madera County

Vice-Chair
Mayor Rudy Mendoza
City of Woodlake

San Joaquin
Council of
Governments

Tulare County
Association of
Governments

Fresno
Council of
Governments

Kern
Council of
Governments

Kings County
Association of
Governments

Madera County
Transportation
Commission

Merced County
Association of
Governments

Stanislaus
Council of
Governments

cc: The Honorable Joaquin Arambula, Assembly Member, 31st District
The Honorable Frank Bigelow, Assembly Member, 5th District
The Honorable Andreas Borgeas, Senator, 8th District
The Honorable Anna Caballero, Senator, 12th District
The Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman, Senator, 5th District
The Honorable Heath Flora, Assembly Member, 12th District
The Honorable Vince Fong, Assembly Member, 34th District
The Honorable Adam Gray, Assembly Member, 21st District
The Honorable Shannon Grove, Senator, 16th District
The Honorable Melissa Hurtado, Senator, 14th District
The Honorable Devin Mathis, Assembly Member, 26th District
The Honorable Jim Patterson, Assembly Member, 23rd District
The Honorable Rudy Salas Jr., Assembly Member, 32nd District
The Honorable Carlos Villapadua, Assembly Member, 13th District
Ronda Paschal, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor Newsom
Mark Tollefson, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor Newsom
Elissa Konove, Undersecretary, California State Transportation Agency
Mitch Weiss, Executive Director, California Transportation Commission
Toks Omishakin, Director, California Department of Transportation
Tony Boren, Executive Director, Fresno Council of Governments
Ahron Hakimi, Executive Director, Kern Council of Governments
Terri King, Executive Director, Kings County Association of Governments
Patricia Taylor, Executive Director, Madera County Transportation Commission
Stacie Guzman, Executive Director, Merced County Association of Governments
Diane Nguyen, Executive Director, San Joaquin Council of Governments
Rosa DeLeón Park, Executive Director, Stanislaus Council of Governments
Ted Smalley, Executive Director, Tulare County Association of Governments
Members of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Policy Council