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October 4, 2022

Mr. Mitch Weiss  
Executive Director  
California Transportation Commission  
1120 N Street, MS 52  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: Support for 2022 Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP) Application:  
Union Pacific (Fresno Subdivision) Ceres to Turlock Double Tracking Project**

Dear Mr. Weiss:

The Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC) supports the application by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRRRC) to the California Transportation Commission's (CTC) 2022 TCEP competitive grant program for the **Union Pacific (Fresno Subdivision) Ceres to Turlock Double Tracking Project** (Project).

We understand that when construction is complete in 2027, the Project will provide a new, second mainline track and track upgrades on a portion of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Fresno Subdivision between Ceres and Turlock, including culvert, under crossing, and at-grade crossing improvements. The Project is a significant investment in freight rail infrastructure that increases safety, modernizes core infrastructure, improves system operations and reliability, and reduces transportation-related pollution. The double tracking Project also works in conjunction with SJRRRC's "Valley Rail" service expansion program that will enable Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) service to operate between Ceres and Turlock, substantially increasing the benefits of this Project. The Project aligns with the TCEP program criteria and benefits a region in California identified as an Area of Persistent Poverty, a Historically Disadvantaged Community, an Opportunity Zone, as well as a state designated Disadvantaged Community, Economically Distressed Area, and Low-Income Community.

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.

This project helps to meet objectives identified in the 2022 Madera County Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy by investing in an effective regional system for goods movement. Supporting Caltrans and partners in adjacent regions in the development of intermodal freight corridors is a key strategy towards achieving this objective.

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

Caltrans and SJRRC are requesting \$40 million in TCEP funding (\$16 million from statewide TCEP and \$24 million from regional corridor TCEP), which represents 30 percent of the estimated total cost of the Project design and construction. SJRRC, with Caltrans support, is committed to providing approximately \$26.7 million in 2022 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) Funds. The combination of TCEP and TIRCP funding of \$66.7 million would go towards a match for a pending application seeking \$66.7 million in USDOT Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant funds. The total funding available for this Project would be \$133.4 million.

MCTC would like to thank the CTC for its consideration and welcomes the opportunity to support Caltrans and the SJRRC in the pursuit of this Project.

Sincerely,

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

Patricia Taylor  
Executive Director  
Madera County Transportation Commission