



**STAFF REPORT**  
Board Meeting of April 19, 2023

**AGENDA ITEM:** 4-G

**PREPARED BY:** Dylan Stone, Principal Regional Planner

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**SUBJECT:**

San Joaquin Joint Power Authority (SJPA) Letter of Support for FY 22-23 Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Grant Program

**Enclosure:** Yes

**Action:** Information and Discussion Only

**SUMMARY:**

The San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJPA) has prepared an application for the 2023 Federal State Partnership for BNSF improvements needed to support San Joaquins expansion for the Valley Rail Program.

The SJPA grant application is requesting federal funding for BNSF improvements between Escalon and Fresno, referred to as the “North Central Valley (Escalon – Fresno) Rail Capacity Enhancement Project”. This segment is a critical feeder to BNSF’s Southern Transcontinental route and hosts high volumes of BNSF freight trains and the San Joaquins intercity passenger trains of the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJPA) operated by Amtrak between Oakland/Sacramento, Fresno, and Bakersfield. The project would invest in double tracking, new or improved bridge and highway-rail grade crossings, allow for accommodation of additional intercity passenger rail trains, and integrate the San Joaquins service with the Merced-Fresno-Bakersfield interim operating segment of California High-Speed Rail.

This public works investment will benefit communities throughout the Northern California Megaregion and Central Valley. The proposed BNSF improvements are needed to expand the San Joaquins service and enhance connections for residents and visitors traveling between Sacramento, the Bay Area, and the fast-growing San Joaquin Valley and supports connectivity to future HSR Interim Service.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

No fiscal impact to the approved 2022-23 Overall Work Program and Budget.