

# CENTRAL VALLEY RAIL WORKING GROUP

County of Sacramento

City of Sacramento

City of Elk Grove

City of Galt

Sacramento Area  
Council of Governments

Sacramento Regional  
Transit District

County of San Joaquin

City of Lodi

City of Stockton

City of Manteca

San Joaquin  
Council of Governments

San Joaquin Regional  
Rail Commission

San Joaquin  
Regional Transit District

County of Stanislaus

City of Modesto

City of Turlock

Stanislaus  
Council of Governments

County of Merced

City of Merced

Merced County  
Association of Governments

*Member Agencies  
in a  
Memorandum of  
Understanding*

The Honorable Jerry Brown  
Governor of California  
State Capitol Building, 10<sup>th</sup> & L Sts  
Sacramento CA 95814

RE: Letter of Support for AB 1779 – The Intercity Passenger Rail Act of 2012

Dear Governor Brown,

The Central Valley Rail Working Group is proud to be a sponsor of Assembly Bill (AB) 1779, which would enable the transfer of administrative responsibility of the San Joaquin intercity passenger rail service from the Department of Transportation to a new joint powers authority.

Our 20-agency working group has been involved in the coordinated planning for passenger rail service between Merced and Sacramento since 2006. Regional coordination and involvement offers so many benefits in terms of leveraging resources and being responsive to the communities and the rail passengers. Our support of AB 1779 comes from watching the success of the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA) which was created to oversee the administration of the Capitol Corridor Intercity service under the provisions of Senate Bill 457 (SB 457). Even though the CCJPA manages the service operations, the JPA continues to work in partnership with Caltrans on policy, programming and statewide consistency objectives where the state brings its' greatest strengths. CCJPA brings a more focused relationship with the host freight railroad, more aggressive advocacy efforts and a governance structure that is more accessible to the constituents and the service contractors. We appreciate that AB 1779 is permissive legislation that follows the model of the CCJPA.

We have been good partners in the development of this legislation. We worked extensively with the staff of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency and accepted all their proposed amendments so now this bill establishes a uniform framework for negotiating interagency transfer agreements applicable to all state-supported intercity rail programs.

We have developed a strong partnership between the San Joaquin Valley, the East Bay, and the Sacramento region and an extensive coalition in the Central Valley that supports AB 1779. We believe that this support for improvements for intercity rail service will be a great asset to the state. Furthermore, AB 1779 establishes a partnership in the coordination of corridor and state efforts in the development of State Rail Plans and future High-Speed Rail Authority Business Plans.

We enthusiastically support AB 1779 and its objectives. The new arrangement for administrative, management and policy direction of the San Joaquin Valley intercity rail service will result in improved service, and increases in ridership and revenue.

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Governor Brown

Letter of Support for AB 1779 – The Intercity Passenger Rail Act of 2012

The Central Valley Rail Working Group strongly urges your expeditious signing of AB 1779, to put us on a new path for expanded and successful intercity passenger rail service in the San Joaquin corridor with a new, better partnership for the State of California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stacey Mortensen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

STACEY MORTENSEN

Executive Director, San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission

On behalf of the Central Valley Rail Working Group