



August 31, 2012

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Support for AB 1779

Dear Governor Brown:

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments, representing 22 cities and six counties, supports AB 1779, to allow the 11 counties currently served by the San Joaquin passenger rail service to form a joint powers agency. This authority is an important tool for improving and expanding intercity rail service between our region and the San Joaquin Valley.

We are optimistic about the benefits of a JPA for improving the San Joaquin, and we also recognize some fiscal and governance issues would need to be worked out before a JPA should be formed. We are confident that the Central Valley Rail Working Group can address these issues as they develop a JPA framework, managing agency options, and a business case.

We see this as an important component of the overall rail strategy for our region. As partners with the Capitol Corridor JPA, we understand the potential for intercity rail. As that state continues to develop a high-speed rail system, a strong network of intercity rail is a critical complement. As with the Capitol Corridor, a JPA structure does not hinder statewide rail coordination. The Capitol Corridor has proven that local officials can optimize service to increase ridership, which has corresponding benefits to the overall statewide network.

Thank you for your vision for improving our state's rail system. Please let me know if you have any questions about the benefits of AB 1779 to our region and state.

Sincerely,

Mike McKeever
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Assemblymember Cathleen Galgiani

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