



SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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September 4, 2012

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AND  
THE COUNTY OF  
SAN JOAQUIN

Governor Brown  
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

Honorable Governor Brown,

The San Joaquin Council of Governments is pleased to provide this letter of support for 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.

This agency enthusiastically supports AB 1779 and its objectives. We believe that the new arrangement for administrative, management and policy direction of the San Joaquin Valley intercity rail service will have the following results:

- It will give “skin in the game” for the San Joaquin Valley when it comes to intercity rail service.
- It protects existing intercity rail assets and services.
- Like with the Capitol Corridor it will invigorate a corridor with existing capacity for service expansion.
- It cements a partnership in the coordination of corridor and state efforts in the next State Rail Plan.

I would offer the following observations as well:

- The partnership between the San Joaquin Valley, the East Bay, and the Sacramento region is something we are very proud of and think that you should be too.
- The coalition supporting this bill is extensive and through negotiations with the Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing has acceded to all amendment requests. We have been good partners in the development of this legislation.

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- The extensive list of supporters of AB 1779 is attempting to build a new partnership with the State of California for a new era of successful passenger rail service. The couple of voices who oppose AB 1779 have only one agenda: to kill high speed rail.

The San Joaquin Council of Governments is pleased and proud to urge your expeditious signing of AB 1779, and put us on a new path for expanded and successful intercity passenger rail service in a new partnership with the State of California.

Sincerely,



ANDREW T. CHESLEY  
Executive Director