



SAN JOAQUIN
REGIONAL
RAIL COMMISSION

September 7, 2012

*Dedicated to
passengers*

*Responsive
to change*

*Committed
to growth*

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

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

Dear Governor Brown:

The San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission 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.

We enthusiastically support 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 result in improved service, and increases in ridership and revenue.

Our support of AB 1779 comes from our own successful experiences with the JPA to oversee the Altamont Commuter Express service and 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.

Commissioners

Steve Bestolarides
San Joaquin County

Sonny Dhaliwal
City of Lathrop

John W. Harris
City of Manteca

Brent H. Ives
City of Tracy

Bob Johnson
City of Lodi

Ann Johnston
City of Stockton

Executive Director
Stacey Mortensen

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Governor Brown

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The San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission 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
San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission