

# San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies' Directors' Committee

c/o Madera County Transportation Commission – 2001 Howard Road, Suite 201 – Madera, CA 93637  
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September 7, 2012

Governor Brown  
State 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**

Honorable Governor Brown:

The eight-county San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies' Directors' Committee 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.

We appreciate that AB 1779 follows the model of the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA), and is permissive legislation which would enable regional governance and management of the existing San Joaquin intercity passenger rail service between Bakersfield-Fresno-Stockton-Sacramento-SF Bay Area.

In addition to more cost effective administration and operations, the CCJPA has shown that there are several other potential benefits to local authority and administration of intercity passenger service including:

- The ability to have a stronger voice in advocating for service improvements and expansions
- Local decision-making that is more responsive and adaptive to passenger issues
- The ability to take better advantage of joint marketing and partnerships with local agencies
- More engagement by local communities to support the service

We support extending the time for creating the Authority and executing an interagency transfer agreement with the Department of Transportation. In order to transfer responsibility of the San Joaquin intercity passenger rail service to the Authority, AB 1779 will require that the transfer must result in administrative or operating cost reductions.

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 look forward to working with the state to ensure consistent and coordinated intercity rail planning for the San Joaquin Corridor.

With more efficient administration and stronger local and regional support, a regionally managed San Joaquin intercity passenger rail service will result in improved service, and increases in ridership and revenue. Increases in San Joaquin intercity passenger rail service and ridership will result in more jobs, improve air quality, and will help promote sustainable development for our four-million residents and future generations to come.

Intercity passenger rail is environmentally friendly, and the state has a continuing interest in the provision of cost-effective and efficiently administered intercity passenger rail services. We strongly encourage you to sign AB 1779 and help move California forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PAT', is written over a thin horizontal line.

Patricia Taylor, MCTC Executive Director  
Chair, San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies' Directors' Committee