

City of

CORCORAN

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July 6, 2012

Assemblymember Galgiani
State Capitol, 10th & L Sts, Room 5155
Sacramento CA 95814
Atten: Victoria Grajek, Chief of Staff

RE: Letter of Support for AB 1779 – Intercity Passenger Rail Act of 2012 for San Joaquin Corridor

Dear Assemblymember Galgiani,

The City of Corcoran is pleased to support 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 (JPA) made up of members from regional agencies along the San Joaquin Corridor.

Regional coordination and involvement offers many benefits in terms of leveraging resources and being responsive to the communities and the rail passengers. In addition to more cost effective administration and operations, other potential benefits of local authority administration of the San Joaquin intercity passenger service include:

- 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; and
- A more focused relationship with the host freight railroad.

We appreciate that AB 1779 prevents local resources from being used to offset any redirection, elimination, reduction, or reclassification of state resources for operating the San Joaquin intercity passenger rail service, and that it is the intent of the sponsors and supporters of AB 1779 to protect existing services and facilities and seek to expand service as warranted by ridership and available revenue. Residents of the City of Corcoran depend on rail service to further educational endeavors and for access to employment opportunities. Furthermore, residents use local Amtrak services as a means of travel in order to obtain medical assistance and government services.

With more focused service oversight and stronger local/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. In contrast, failure to support intercity passenger rail would be detrimental to Corcoran's economy and community identity.

The City Council of the City of Corcoran fully supports the effort for a regionally managed intercity passenger rail service. We are pleased to join with you to move California forward.

Sincerely,



Kindon Meik
City Manager

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