



SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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THE COUNTY OF
SAN JOAQUIN

April 25, 2012

Assembly Member Cameron Smyth
Chair of the Local Government Committee
Assembly Local Government Committee
1020 N Street, Room 157
Sacramento, California 95814

Honorable Chair Smyth:

The San Joaquin Council of Governments (San Joaquin COG) supports the passage of AB 1779, The Intercity Passenger Rail Act for the San Joaquin Corridor. The Act creates a regional governance structure modeled after the successful Capitol Corridor.

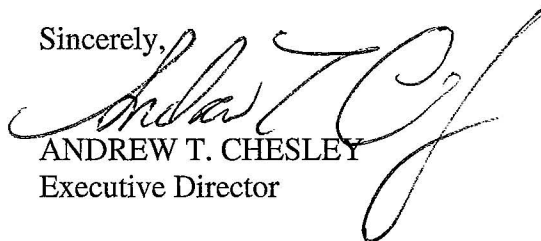
This agency's support is based on the following considerations:

1. That the service can be more effectively and efficiently administered by a joint powers agreement similar to the Capital Corridor and similar to that being proposed for the Surfliner.
2. A JPA gives us a better opportunity to advocate for the expansion of the intercity service in the San Joaquin Valley from Bakersfield to Sacramento and to Oakland.
3. The growth of intercity rail is best assured with the leadership of locally elected government officials acting regionally.

The Act is permissible in nature allowing the San Joaquin Valley, Sacramento, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties the opportunity to make the final decisions regarding moving ahead with this joint powers authority.

San Joaquin COG is excited at the prospect of building upon and expanding upon the existing San Joaquin service. AB 1779, The Intercity Passenger Rail Act for the San Joaquin Corridor has the support of the San Joaquin Council of Governments.

Sincerely,



ANDREW T. CHESLEY
Executive Director

cc: Assemblymember Galgiani
San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission
San Joaquin Valley Regional Transportation Planning Agencies