



SAN JOAQUIN
REGIONAL
RAIL COMMISSION

March 30, 2012

The Honorable Cathleen Galgiani
CA State Assembly, District 17
State Capitol, 10th & L Sts, Room 5155
Sacramento CA 95814
Atten: Victoria Grajek, Chief of Staff

Dedicated to
passengers

Responsive
to change

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to growth

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

Dear Assemblymember Galgiani,

The Central Valley Rail Working Group is pleased to sponsor and 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.

Our 20-agency working group has been involved in the coordinated planning for passenger rail service between Merced and Sacramento since 2006. Regional coordination and involvement offers so many benefits in terms of leveraging resources and being responsive to the communities and the rail passengers. Our support of AB 1779 comes from watching the success of the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA) which was created to oversee the administration of the Capitol Corridor service under the provisions of Senate Bill 457 (SB 457). Over the last 15 years, without direct financial contribution by member agencies, the CCJPA has successfully managed the Capitol Corridor between Auburn and San Jose. CCJPA 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 follows the model of the CCJPA, and is permissive legislation which would enable regional governance/management of the existing San Joaquin intercity passenger rail service between Bakersfield-Fresno-Stockton-Sacramento-SF Bay Area.

With more focused service oversight and stronger local/regional support, a regionally managed San Joaquin intercity passenger rail service can result in much higher frequencies of service, and increases in ridership and revenue – like experienced by the Capitol Corridor under the regional administration of the CCJPA. Increases in San Joaquin intercity passenger rail service and ridership will result in more jobs, improve air quality, and will help promote sustainable development.

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 are pleased to join with you to move California forward.

Sincerely,

STACEY MORTENSEN
Executive Director, San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission
On behalf of the Central Valley Rail Working Group

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

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Executive Director
Stacey Mortensen