



SAN JOAQUIN
REGIONAL
RAIL COMMISSION

April 6, 2012

*Dedicated to
passengers*

*Responsive
to change*

*Committed
to growth*

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

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

Dear Assemblymember Galgiani,

At the April 6, 2012 San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission meeting, the Board of Commissioners adopted a Resolution 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 support of AB 1779 comes from our own successful experiences with the JPA to oversee the ACE 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 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 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

Attachment: Resolution of the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission

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

RESOLUTION RRC-R-11/12-028

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL RAIL COMMISSION
SUPPORTING AND SPONSORING AB1779 (GALGIANI) -
THE INTERCITY PASSENGER RAIL ACT OF 2012
FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN CORRIDOR**

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission is a successful, regional Joint Powers Authority (JPA) for the Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) service that has leveraged significant improvements to passenger rail service and significant outside funding to the region, and;

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin Intercity rail service currently managed by Caltrans is also an important rail service in the Central Valley with a transfer station in Stockton, and;

WHEREAS, in 1996 the Capitol Corridor regional Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA) was formed to assume from Caltrans, the management of the Capitols Intercity rail service between Auburn and San Jose, and;

WHEREAS, the Capitols have quadrupled service under the management of the CCJPA and become one of the most successful Intercity services in the nation, and;

WHEREAS, the CCJPA provides a successful model for a regional governance initiative for the San Joaquin, and;

WHEREAS, significant support throughout the Central Valley has been generated to form a regional JPA for the purpose of assuming the management of the San Joaquin, and;

WHEREAS, Assemblymember Galgiani (17th District) has introduced AB 1779 – The Intercity Passenger Rail Act of 2012 for the San Joaquin Corridor to allow the formation of a regional JPA,

NOW THEREFORE, the Commission hereby resolves as follows:

1. The Rail Commission agrees to be a sponsoring agency for AB 1779
2. The Executive Director is authorized and directed to submit a letter of support for AB 1779

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the Board of Commissioners this 6th day of April, by the following vote:

AYES: 7 Blalock, Haggerty, Dhaliwal, Harris, Ives, Johnson, Chair Bestolarides

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 1 Vice-Chair Johnston

ABSTAIN: 0

ATTEST:


STACEY MORTENSEN, Secretary

SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL
RAIL COMMISSION

STEVE BESTOLARIDES, Chair