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September 10, 2020

The Honorable Pauline Cutter, Chair
Alameda County Transportation Commission
1111 Broadway, Suite 800
Oakland, CA 94607

Subject: Support for ACTC Approval of Tri-Valley-San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority Request for a 2014 Measure BB Transportation Expenditure Plan Amendment

Dear Chair Cutter:

As a project partner and member of the Tri-Valley – San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority (Authority), SJRRC writes to support the approval of the Authority's request to an amend the 2014 Measure BB Transportation Expenditure Plan (TEP). The TEP amendment will acknowledge the Authority as a new agency in Alameda County that can be an eligible recipient of Measure BB funds and update the TEP by adding Valley Link for the $400 million Measure BB funding identified for the BART to Livermore project. This action will fulfill a commitment made to the Tri-Valley to advance rail connectivity to Livermore. It will also support an intermodal connection between ACE and the BART system and support the advancement of the Altamont Corridor Vision.

As the owner/operator of the ACE commuter rail service, SJRRC would like to highlight that ACE and Valley Link are complementary services. The two biggest markets served by ACE are between the Central Valley and Santa Clara County and Alameda County (Tri-Valley/Tri-City areas) to Santa Clara County. ACE trains run primarily on UPPR freight track which greatly limits the frequency of ACE. ACE's funded expansion program will extend ACE in the Central Valley to Sacramento, Stanislaus, and Merced counties. Valley Link offers a direct connection with BART at Dublin/Pleasanton which will greatly improve connectivity between Livermore/San Joaquin County to Oakland and San Francisco. Valley Link will also improve connectivity to BART for ACE passengers (with one or more Valley Link/ACE joint stations). Valley Link will provide a very frequent all-day rail link between the Tri-Valley and San Joaquin County whereas ACE service will continue to focus on serving the peak-periods traffic flows and serve longer-distance markets. SJRRC has also been working with the Authority to plan for shared infrastructure for Valley Link and ACE between North Lathrop and Livermore. It is important to highlight that SJRRC did the initial planning for what has become the Valley Link project – because it would complement ACE service and would have great potential benefits for the Altamont Corridor.

We urge approval of the Authority's Request for a 2014 Measure BB Transportation Expenditure Plan Amendment. This action will ensure that the Valley Link project moves forward and supports the Altamont Corridor Vision that our agencies are diligently working jointly to advance.

Sincerely,

Christina Fugazi
Chair, San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission

Cc: Alameda County Transportation Commission members
Tess Lengyel, ACTC Executive Director
Stacey Mortensen, SJRRC Executive Director
Michael Tree, Authority Executive Director