

High Desert Corridor



Joint Powers Authority

E-220 HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR

March 12, 2021

California High-Speed Rail Authority 770 L Street, Suite 620-MS-1 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: High Desert Corridor JPA Comments to Revised Draft 2020 Business Plan via <u>DraftBP2020@hsr.ca.gov</u>

On behalf of the High Desert Corridor JPA (HDC) members, we are pleased to submit comments to the California High-Speed Rail Authority Revised Draft 2020 Business Plan.

The Authority Business Plans continues funding to complete environmental review for the Southern California Sections, especially for the **Bakersfield to Palmdale Section**, which the HDC strongly supports. The Cities of Lancaster and Palmdale have continued their cooperative working relationships with Authority staff and consultants on design elements as the CA high-speed rail project environmental documents continue through the process.

When construction funding becomes available beyond the current segments under construction, the HDC JPA strongly urges the CA High-Speed Rail Authority allocate construction funds to the Bakersfield to Palmdale Section.

The HDC JPA is currently advancing the HDC Rail Component from the 2016 Locally Preferred Alternative toward a Record of Decision in 2021. The HDC is excited with the interoperability of the high-speed rail systems to serve the high-desert communities in Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties.

We look forward to working with the Authority throughout the environmental clearance process to make high-speed rail a reality for the high-desert communities in Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties.

Sincerely,

Arthur V. Sohikian Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kathryn Barger Supervisor, Los Angeles County Fifth District (Chair)

Col. Paul Cook (Ret.) Supervisor, San Bernardino County First District (Vice Chair) Darrell Dorris Council Member, City of Lancaster

Gabriel Reyes Mayor, City of Adelanto **Steven D. Hofbauer** *Mayor, City of Palmdale*

Scott Nassif Council Member, Town of Apple Valley Dave Perry Los Angeles County

Debra Jones Mayor, City of Victorville