



NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Transportation Coalition JPA

March 12, 2021

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

RE: North Los Angeles County Transportation Coalition JPA Comments to Revised Draft 2020 Business Plan via DraftBP2020@hsr.ca.gov

On behalf of the North Los Angeles County Transportation Coalition JPA (NCTC) member agencies Los Angeles County 5th District, Cities of Lancaster, Palmdale and Santa Clarita in north Los Angeles County, 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 **Bakersfield to Palmdale Section, which the NCTC JPA strongly supports**. The Cities of Lancaster and Palmdale have continued their cooperative working relationships with Authority staff and consultants on design elements as the project environmental documents continue through the process.

The NCTC JPA **remains concerned about potential impacts to communities within the Palmdale to Burbank section**. The City of Santa Clarita has expressed their concerns and urges the Authority to continue exploring ways to mitigate impacts to communities, including additional tunneling. The NCTC urges the Authority to remain underground through the Santa Clarita Valley, including Acton, Agua Dulce, The San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, and the Magic Mountain Wilderness Area.

We look forward to working with the Authority throughout the environmental clearance process to make high-speed rail a reality for North Los Angeles County.

Sincerely,

Arthur V. Sohikian
Executive Director