



## OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Arnoldo Rodriguez, City Manager

May 27, 2020

Honorable Jim Frazier, Chair  
California State Assembly Transportation Committee  
1020 N Street Room 112  
Sacramento CA 95814  
Via Email to: [atr.committee@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:atr.committee@assembly.ca.gov)

**SUBJECT: Support for Continued Investment in San Joaquin Valley**

Dear California State Assembly Transportation Committee Chair and Members,

The City of Madera would like to express strong support for the Draft 2020 CHSRA Business Plan, as well as express strong support for the Governor's Proposal and CHSRA's staff recommendations to implement the Merced-Fresno-Bakersfield HSR Interim Operating Segment with additional stops at Kings/Tulare and Madera -- providing high-speed rail service to Californians at the earliest possible time.

The City of Madera in partnership with other WYE Madera County member agencies, is interested in ensuring that California's investment in high-speed rail achieves the intended state-wide transportation system benefits while providing local benefits and avoiding disproportionate effects on the citizens of Madera County.

High-speed rail construction is well underway in Madera County and the San Joaquin Valley. Completion of the Merced-Fresno-Bakersfield segment is critical to ensure that the constructed facilities result in a functional rail system with state-wide and regional transportation benefits. We are committed to ensuring the infrastructure investment that has been made to date for California High Speed Rail in the San Joaquin Valley, more specifically the Valley to Valley portion of the rail, is completed. The City of Madera, along with the WYE, urges the Committee to strongly oppose any legislation or pressure to divert or eliminate funding identified for facilities planned and under construction in the San Joaquin Valley.

Relevant issues as to the importance of supporting the Merced-Fresno-Bakersfield segment relate with the particular segment's ability to:

- provide economic growth, sustainable development and environmental benefits in a region that has a history of being vastly overlooked; and
- improve air quality in the Central Valley and reduces GHG emissions by shifting from diesel to clean, zero-emission electrically powered trains; and

- establishing the Central Valley as the spine of HSR by promoting transit-oriented development around stations in Central Valley communities that desperately need revitalization.

If high-speed operations are not successfully demonstrated in the Central Valley, it will certainly be the end of the HSR system promised to the voters – linking the San Joaquin Valley to Sacramento, the Bay Area and Southern California.

Sincerely,



Arnaldo Rodriguez  
City Manager

cc via electronic mail to:

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