



# CITY OF MERCED

**MERCED**

**VIA EMAIL**

April 9, 2024

Tom Richards  
Chair  
California High-Speed Rail Authority  
770 L Street, Suite 620  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Letter of Support – 2024 Business Plan

Honorable Chair Richards and Board Members:

The City of Merced is grateful for the opportunity to review and respond to the 2024 Business Plan. We encourage the Board to fully support and adopt this Plan. The 2024 Business Plan clearly outlines construction progress, job creation, impact to the California economy, and a taste of California's future with the rollout of the stations for the San Joaquin Valley High Speed Rail communities.

The 2024 High-Speed Rail Business Plan supports a new era of connectivity and progress for Merced and the San Joaquin Valley. As the proposed multimodal station serving the Valley, Merced stands at the forefront of California's multimethod transportation development.

"Three Trains, One Station," Merced embodies accessibility and offers seamless connectivity between high-speed rail, regional rail, and local transit systems. This plan enhances mobility and expands opportunities and experiences for residents and visitors alike.

Embracing the 2024 High-Speed Rail Business Plan positions Merced as a hub of innovation and growth, driving economic prosperity and community development. Merced is the center for multiple transit networks, facilitating residents' access to California's expansive geography. This strategic positioning offers opportunities for education, employment, and recreational activities and empowers individuals to economically explore the state's diverse landscapes. Moreover, as the gateway to the northern San Joaquin Valley, Merced's multimodal station is sustainable and encourages eco-friendly travel practices, reducing carbon emissions. With the city's strategic location and commitment to progress, the 2024 High-Speed Rail Business Plan ensures that the



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San Joaquin Valley emerges as a leading example of modern transportation, enriching the lives of its residents and catalyzing regional advancement.

The High-Speed Rail Authority Board, Director Brian Kelly, and the High-Speed Rail Authority staff are to be applauded for the work completed and demonstrated in the 2024 Business Plan. We are thankful for the partnership forged between the High-Speed Rail Authority and the City of Merced.

If the City of Merced may be of additional assistance regarding the Business Plan, please contact Deputy City Manager, Frank Quintero at 209-385-6826 or [quinterof@cityofmerced.org](mailto:quinterof@cityofmerced.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Serratto".

Matt Serratto, Mayor  
City of Merced

Cc: Scott McBride, City Manager  
Frank Quintero, Deputy City Manager  
Meg Cederth, HSR, via email  
Ben Lichty, HSR, via email  
Sharon Gonzalves, RPPG, via email