



California Partnership for the
San Joaquin Valley

June 17, 2008

RE: AB 3034 (Galgiani) & Senate Transportation Report on High-Speed Rail

Dear Senate Transportation Committee :

I write on behalf of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (“the Partnership”) in support of AB 3034, a bill to improve the High-Speed Rail bond measure on the November ballot. The Partnership has been closely engaged in developments related to the proposed High Speed Rail bond measure, working with stakeholders throughout the Valley, the California High Speed Rail Authority (“HSRA”) and the members of the Altamont Working Group to ensure that the needs of the very high proportion of riders who will travel in and out of the Valley or within the Valley are properly addressed. We have been greatly encouraged by the progress achieved in the development of AB 3034. Conversely, we find that certain recommendations offered in the Senate Transportation Committee’s Report on Oversight Hearings on the HSRA, released June 2008, would derail progress made to improve the bond. Specifically, the report’s recommendation to prioritize construction of the regional segments before developing the link between them would greatly undermine the purpose and benefit of the high-speed rail system - to link all major cities in California.

The State cannot afford to delay construction on the Central Valley high-speed rail segment as the report’s recommendation suggests. The HSRA projects that 44% of the ridership on the high speed train will involve people traveling in and out of the Valley or within the Valley. By 2030, eight million trips annually are projected between the Valley and the Bay Area and five million between the Valley and Los Angeles, producing significant ridership revenue. Additionally, the Central Valley is the only corridor in which the high-speed trains can reach their true velocity, operating at speeds of up to 220 miles per hour, which must be tested and certified.

It is vital that AB 3034 be adopted by the legislature as expeditiously as possible and that it continue to address the concerns and needs of the Valley. We respectfully urge you to support the passage of AB 3034 and reject the committee report’s recommendation to fund “regional segments of the high-speed rail corridor before developing the long-distance link between the state’s major urban centers” for the reasons listed above.

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Please contact the Partnership Government Affairs Coordinator, Katie Stevens, with any questions you may have at kstevens@csufresno.edu or (559) 347-3918. We thank you in advance for your support of AB 3034.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Connie Conway". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Connie Conway, Chair

C: San Joaquin Valley Delegation