



California Partnership for the
San Joaquin Valley

August 20, 2007

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor
State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

We write to provide you with the working position recently adopted by the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley Board of Directors pertaining to high-speed rail and to express our enthusiasm in working with you to support the listed principles. The elements of this position serve to supplement the resolution that was passed and sent to your office on June 29 as well as a July letter that reiterated our strong support for a funding level sufficient to: a) to meet requirements for the development of a proposal suitable for placing a bond measure before the voters at the earliest possible opportunity, and b) to provide the necessary facilitation, consensus building and staff support to develop a plan for inclusion of the San Joaquin Valley in the first phase of the implementation of the high-speed rail system.

On August 10, the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley Board of Directors agreed on the elements of a working position on high-speed rail. This decision was the result of a special meeting held with a diverse group of stakeholders throughout the Valley who convened to share the most current information on the High-Speed Rail (HSR) initiative, gather input from various stakeholder groups affected, and determine how to best prepare the San Joaquin Valley for prospective implementation of the initiative. The board adopted the following working position:

- High-speed rail needs to serve the entire San Joaquin Valley (Bakersfield to Sacramento), and the region must stay together as it works toward implementation of the initiative;
- \$15.5 million must stay in the 2007-08 Budget as a minimum funding level;
- The high-speed rail ballot measure must stay on the 2008 ballot;

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- The federal government needs to contribute to the high-speed rail project. Congress should seriously consider the establishment of a federal high-speed rail authority with powers similar to California's authority;
- Passenger rail also is a priority for the Valley and is meeting immediate demand, while the high-speed rail initiative will address mid- and long-term demand;
- Land use patterns are a critical success factor for high-speed rail. The Blueprint regional planning process needs to be tightly connected to the efforts to implement high-speed rail in the Valley; and
- The route between the San Joaquin Valley and the Bay Area will have a significant impact on the Valley being served as an entire region.

As you know, this project is consistent with a number of objectives of the Partnership's Transportation and Air Quality Work Groups as outlined in the *Strategic Action Proposal* for the San Joaquin Valley delivered to the governor and the legislature in October of 2006.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you in support of the listed position.

Sincerely,



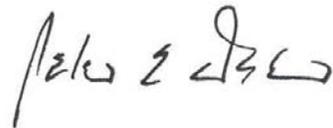
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Fritz Grupe, Deputy Chair



Sunne Wright McPeak, Member
Executive Committee



Peter Weber, Member
Executive Committee