



Robert Rickman
Board of Supervisors
Representing the Fifth District

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March 30, 2021

The Honorable Lena Gonzales
Chair, Senate Committee on Transportation
Room 2209, State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: SUPPORT for Senate Bill 548 – Tri-Valley-San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority

Dear Senator Gonzales:

As the appointed representative of a member agency of the Tri-Valley – San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority (Authority), I write to ask for your support of SB 548. An estimated 93,400 Bay Area workers living in Northern San Joaquin County commute daily through the Altamont, with the number expected to increase substantially over the next two decades. The Valley Link passenger rail project being planned by the Authority will promote equity by serving communities and households – with some of our state's highest poverty rates – with stations in San Joaquin County all within areas designated as disadvantaged or within or near low-income communities. During construction, Valley Link will create more than 22,000 jobs with an economic impact of \$4.85 billion. When operational, it will support 400 jobs per year with labor income of over \$19 million per year and \$69 million in business sales annually. The project will support an estimated 33,000 daily riders in 2040, providing an estimated reduction of 99.4 million vehicle miles traveled per year and 32,220 to 42,650 metric tons of GHG emissions. In short, Valley Link is urgently needed and I urge the advancement of SB 548 to expedite its delivery.

SB 548 makes needed changes to existing law regarding the Authority. It clarifies that the Authority is considered a rail transit district, that the Authority can operate the train service it is planning, developing and delivering, and that the Valley Link project will connect with ACE rail at the optimal configuration for its project.

Thank you for your continued advocacy for much needed transportation infrastructure for our Northern California Megaregion workforce. Your consideration of this letter and support for SB 548 is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Robert Rickman
Supervisor, Fifth District
San Joaquin County

Copy:
SJC CAO, SJC COB
Sen. Eggman
Tri-Valley – San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority

DTG: 08921/01ST

“I hope I shall possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain (what I consider the most enviable of all titles), the character of an honest man.”
- George Washington -