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Board of Supervisors
Representing the Fifth District

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August 19, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Signature Request for SB 548 Tri-Valley-San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority: Transit Connectivity

Dear Governor Newsom:

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 and signature on SB 548. This bill provides needed clarification to previous enabling legislation, by designating the Authority as a rail transit district that can operate the train service it is planning, developing, and delivering. It also clarifies that the Valley Link project may be planned to connect with the ACE rail system at its most optimal location. These changes will enable fast and efficient advancement of the Valley Link rail project – delivering an urgently needed project that will support our Northern California Megaregion workforce, enhance our environment and quality of life in the Northern California Megaregion, and promote economic recovery and future growth.

Valley Link is a transformational passenger rail project that will close a critical gap by connecting the BART rapid transit system and ACE commuter service - linking nearly 500 miles of commuter and intercity rail with more than 130 stations throughout the Northern California Megaregion meeting an urgent need to connect housing and people to high paying, prevailing wage jobs. More than 98,500 Bay Area workers are now commuting daily through this corridor - on average more than 78-minutes each way. In addition to providing access to jobs and job training sites, the project will create more than 22,000 jobs with an economic impact of \$4.85 billion. The project's 74 daily round trips will serve an estimated 33,000 daily riders in 2040 - a yearly reduction of 141 million vehicle miles traveled and 32,220 to 42,650 metric tons of GHG emissions.

For SB 548, no change is needed at the State level, as the implementing agency is the Authority. Additionally, SB 548 will not impact the State budget. I urge you to sign SB 548 in support of this critically needed transportation infrastructure project and thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Robert Rickman
Supervisor, Fifth District
San Joaquin County

Copy:
SJC CAO, SJC COB, SJC PW
Tri-Valley – San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority

DTG: 23121/01ST

“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 -