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Assembly California Legislature

CONNIE CONWAY
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, 26TH DISTRICT

**ASSEMBLY REPUBLICAN
LEADER**

**Member, Select Committee on
Agriculture and the
Environment**

DISTRICT OFFICE
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April 22, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: San Joaquin Valley Railroad Improvement Project

Dear Secretary Foxx,

The rural transportation route of the San Joaquin Valley Shortline Railroad (SJVR) provides the only dual Class 1 connectivity between the national freight rail network interchange in Fresno, CA and our valuable customers throughout the proud 26th Assembly District connecting Fresno, Tulare and Kings Counties, California. The Fresno to Goshen Corridor is one of the areas of anticipated growth as outlined in the San Joaquin Valley's Blueprint Roadmap. SJVR in partnership with Local, County and State Governments provides the safe and efficient movement of goods, supporting rail corridor improvements enriches the air quality, achieving livable quality of life values outlined in the Valley's 2050 Growth Scenario. Moving forward to support that expansion, while protecting the environment, is to expand the capacity of the SJVR short line railroad on the Exeter Subdivision running from Fresno to Exeter.

The project funding will strengthen and preserve the strategic corridor by replacing aging track infrastructure providing safer and more efficient operation to boost the economic liveliness of the region. The plan will also safely expedite the interchanging of rail traffic along an entire modern 286,000 lb. rural freight route, and return the track to a state of good repair for sustained customer dual Cass 1 access with agriculture, manufacturing, processing and other important freight shipments.

Improving the quality of life throughout our vast rural district is imperative for citizens of this area and by improving the rail corridor not only increases safety but also will accelerate the movement of trains through the corridor, limiting delays to motorists at crossings, reducing emissions. The Fresno-Goshen corridor follows Highway 99, the backbone of the San Joaquin Valley roadway network, and by supporting the San Joaquin Valley Railroad Improvement Project, together we will ensure opportunities for livable quality of life while reducing truck traffic on the already over congested highways.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Connie Conway".

Connie Conway
Assembly Republican Leader, 26th District



UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 17, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing in support of Tulare County, California's application to the TIGER VI program for the Central Valley Rural Freight Rail Economic and Community Enhancement Project.

I am told the funding will provide safer and more efficient operation of the San Joaquin Valley Railroad (SJVR) and play a key role in boosting the economic vitality of the region. The project aims to strengthen and preserve the strategic corridor connecting the cities of Fresno, CA and Exeter, CA by replacing the aging railroad track structure with new ties and replacing worn tracks by installing 17 miles of new 115 lb. continuous welded rail. The existing rail is light weight 75 lb. rail rolled in 1905, bolted together in 39 foot sections, and made with the inferior non-controlled cooled technology. As I understand, the obsolete rail is prone to internal metallurgical failures, creating risks for derailments if undetected. The extant rail is outdated for modern railcar weight capacities, limiting current speeds on the segment to 10 MPH or less.

The rural route has 17 miles of obsolete main track rail. Replacing the rail not only increases safety but will also accelerate the movement of trains through the corridor, limiting delays to motorists at crossings, and reducing emissions. These goals align with the President's Ladders of Opportunity initiative, improving the quality of life throughout the fast growing San Joaquin Valley region and directly supporting rail based customers who employ and provide living wage jobs in one of the nation's regions hardest hit by recent economic and drought crises. Modernizing the rail infrastructure to reach full connectivity with the freight network helps sourcing and distribution options for current and future businesses in Tulare and Kings Counties and increases the marketability of the region for new economic development and job growth.

This project is important for the region and the State of California and I hope you will give Tulare County's application your full and thorough consideration.

Regards,

David G. Valadao
Member of Congress

DEVIN NUNES
22ND DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA



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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

April 7, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: San Joaquin Valley Railroad Improvement Project – TIGER VI Application

I am writing to express my support for Tulare County's application for funding through the TIGER VI grant program. The County is seeking funds to upgrade the San Joaquin Valley Railroad between Fresno and Exeter.

This railroad provides direct access to the major Class I railroads in the Central Valley and the national freight rail network. It serves companies in Fresno, Tulare and Kings Counties. The proposed TIGER grant will allow for the upgrading of this critical line which is suffering from long term deferred maintenance by its prior owners.

The San Joaquin Valley "Blueprint Roadmap" and the 2050 Growth Scenario, calls for the region to have improved mobility. Upgrading this rail line to modern industry standards would assist with these goals. It would reduce highway congestion, improve air quality (in a region plagued with non-attainment and very poor air quality), and increase industrial access and growth.

For the reasons above, I ask that you give due consideration to this application for funding. I also ask that you advise me of the status and keep me informed of any new developments regarding the request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Devin Nunes".

Devin Nunes
Member of Congress

California State Senate

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RULES
BUDGET

JEAN FULLER

SENATOR, EIGHTEENTH DISTRICT

April 11, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: San Joaquin Valley Railroad (SJVR) Improvement Project Application for TIGER VI funds

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to express my strong support for the San Joaquin Valley Shortline Railroad (SJVR) improvement project application for funding through Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Program being submitted by the County of Tulare.

The SJVR Improvement Project will provide the only dual Class 1 connectivity between the national freight rail network interchange in Fresno, California that will connect Fresno, Tulare and Kings Counties. The Fresno to Goshen Corridor is one of the areas of anticipated growth as outlined in the San Joaquin Valley's Blueprint Roadmap. SJVR in partnership with local, county and state Governments will provide the safe and efficient movement of goods, while supporting rail corridor improvements that will enrich the air quality, and achieve livable quality of life values outlined in the Valley's 2050 Growth Scenario.

Improving the quality of life throughout the vast rural Senate District 18, and enhancing access to living wage jobs is imperative for citizens of this area. Improving the rail corridor not only increases safety but also will accelerate the movement of trains through the corridor, limiting delays to motorist at crossings and reducing emissions.

The TIGER project funding will strengthen and preserve the strategic corridor by replacing aging track infrastructure, provide safer and more efficient operation to boost the economic liveliness of the region. The plan will also safely expedite the interchanging of rail traffic along an entire modern 286,000 lb. rural freight route, and return the track to a state of good repair for sustained customer dual Class 1 access with agriculture, manufacturing, processing and other important freight shipments.

I fully support the Tulare County San Joaquin Valley Railroad Improvement project which will ensure opportunities for future generations to enjoy a livable quality of life while reducing the congestion on the already over-choked State and National Highway system.

Thank you for your consideration of TIGER VI funding for the San Joaquin Valley Railroad (SJVR) Improvement project, which is vital to the County of Tulare and the surrounding region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean Fuller".

Jean Fuller
Senator, 18th District

JF:rc

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California State Senate

SENATOR
TOM BERRYHILL
FOURTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

April 16, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: San Joaquin Valley Railroad Improvement Project

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to offer my strong support of the rural San Joaquin Valley Shortline Railroad (SJVR) TIGER grant application that will bring much needed funds to the only dual Class 1 connectivity between the national freight rail network interchange in Fresno, CA and our valuable customers in parts of Senate District 14, connecting Fresno and Kings Counties through the Tulare County Exeter subdivision rail line.

This project will improve the quality of life throughout the Central Valley of California, while enhancing access to living wage jobs and improving the safety and movement of trains through the rail corridor. The SJVR, in partnership with Local, County and State Governments, provides the safe and efficient movement of goods and the supporting rail corridor improvements that enrich the air and livable quality of life values outlined in the Valley's 2050 Growth Scenario.

The rural TIGER project funding will strengthen and preserve the strategic corridor by replacing aging track infrastructure providing safer and more efficient operation to advance the economic liveliness to one of the nation's hardest economically distressed regions. The plan will also safely expedite the interchanging of rail traffic along an entire modern 286,000 lb. rural freight route, and return the track to a state of good repair for sustained customer dual Class 1 access with agriculture, manufacturing, processing and other important family wage employment providers.

Again, I fully support the San Joaquin Valley Shortline Railroad Improvement Project, which will improve the quality of life while improving the air quality and reducing the congestion on the already strained State and National Highway system. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at my Sacramento office regarding this vital project to the Central Valley.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Berryhill".

Tom Berryhill
Senator, 14th District

April 17, 2014

United States Department of Transportation
Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for the County of Tulare, California's San Joaquin Valley Railroad Improvement Project application under the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants Program

To Whom It May Concern:

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (District) supports the County of Tulare, California's application to the United States Department of Transportation, Transportation Investment Generating economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants Program for the San Joaquin Valley Railroad Improvement Project. The County of Tulare, in collaboration with the Tulare County Association of Governments and San Joaquin Valley Railroad is proposing improvements to the rural route (Exeter Subdivision) of the San Joaquin Valley Railroad in the Central Valley of California. The project includes upgrading 17 miles of existing rail with 115 lb. welded rail, 31 miles of replacement ties 50 miles of surfacing, 60 crossings and 45 bridges which will increase efficiency and attract new businesses to rail and away from truck transportation. This project will allow freight (primarily agricultural commodities) to be moved to and from Tulare County more efficiently and with less impact on the Valley's air quality.

The challenges faced by the San Joaquin Valley with respect to air quality are unmatched by any other region in the state of California. The Valley's topography, climate, geography, and the presence of two major transportation corridors connecting Northern and Southern California all contribute to the region's air quality problem. With mobile sources as the leading contributor of air pollution in the Valley, the District has focused significant resources towards the advancement of clean-air transportation strategies, including more efficient freight movement throughout the region. The proposed project aligns with the District's air quality goals and would greatly improve freight travel throughout the Valley.

Given the potential air quality benefits from this proposal, the District supports this proposal and hopes that your agency will select this application for funding. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (559) 230-6036.

Sincerely,



Seyed Sadredin
Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer

Seyed Sadredin
Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer

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