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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.



September 23, 2014

Mr. Paul Dyson Executive Director RailPAC P.O. Box 22344 San Francisco, CA 94122

Dear Mr. Dyson:

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the implementation of California's high-speed rail program in the Southern California region. We indeed share the same goal of improving the efficiency, connectivity, and environmental benefits associated with rail transportation in Southern California. That is why the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) is currently focused on advancing the high-speed rail connection between the Antelope Valley and the San Fernando Valley while we continue to move both north and south across the state to complete the entire system.

High-speed rail service between the Antelope Valley and the San Fernando Valley with direct connectivity to Metrolink service as well as other multi-modal transit options will dramatically improve mobility for millions of Southern Californians in surrounding areas. The improvements in mobility would directly result in reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and an increase in economic opportunities.

Because of this focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, we are not currently considering the operational model you describe in your letter as a diesel shuttle service. Instead, the Authority is evaluating options for extending a one-seat ride as far south as possible, as soon as possible, to ensure Southern Californians have direct access to the high-speed rail system. Options for doing this are currently being evaluated, including similar ideas to those you propose in your letter. Authority staff is available to sit down with you to discuss your ideas on how to bring this to fruition.

I would also draw your attention to two activities underway in the region that I believe advance our shared goal of improving rail service in the Southland. One of these is the progress of investments and partnerships to deliver regional mobility projects like the Southern California Interconnector Project (SCRIP), and numerous grade separations and double track projects that will materially improve passenger rail service by the end of this decade. In addition, regional collaboration efforts have led to the development of a plan to complete the first interstate high-speed rail line between California and Nevada.

I invite you to work with the Authority in our efforts to collaborate with regional stakeholders to bring high-speed rail to Southern California. The time to argue about the project has passed, and now is the time to help maximize the investment and support construction of the best possible project – one that is worthy of the dynamic Southern California region and the State as a whole. Thank you again for your correspondence and please do not hesitate to contact me again in the future.

Sincerely,

Dan Richard

Chairman, Board of Directors

California High-Speed Rail Authority