



Judith G. Case, Chairman
Supervisor, District 4
Board of Supervisors

September 1, 2010

Honorable Trinidad Rodriguez, Chairman
Council of Fresno County Governments
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Mayor Rodriguez;

Subject: San Joaquin Valley Railroad – Economic Feasibility and Cost Study

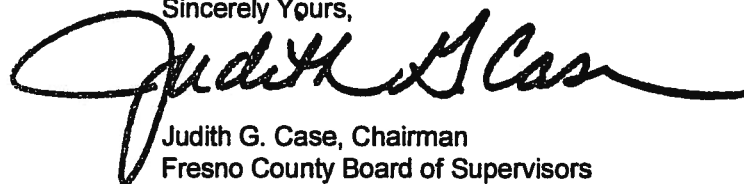
Fresno County has received a request from officials in Tulare County to consider partnership options for public acquisition and operation of the San Joaquin Valley Railroad, a short-haul freight railroad currently operating in Fresno, Tulare, and Kern County. It is our understanding that the long-term operation of the railroad is at risk, with portions of the railroad in south Tulare County already proposed for abandonment by the San Joaquin Valley Railroad.

Freight rail is a significant element of multi-modal goods movement in Fresno County and provide cost-effective transport while reducing diesel emissions and truck congestion. Our Regional Transportation Plan supports increased integration of freight rail and multi-modal opportunities in Fresno County, and investigation of new inland port/short-haul railroad services.

Currently the economic viability of local short-haul railroad lines and the business opportunities along the Fresno County portion of San Joaquin Valley Railroad are not well understood. We would therefore request the Council of Fresno County Governments to fund a market feasibility & cost study and operation plan for the San Joaquin Valley Railroad corridor in Fresno County. This study will inform this region as to how short-haul freight railroads may fit into the larger goods movement strategies that the Valley COGs are developing, and will in addition inform the COG, Fresno County, and its cities of the merits or risks of partnership with Tulare County.

We understand that Tulare Association of Governments has contracted with Railroad Industries Incorporated to conduct such a study for the Tulare County portion of the San Joaquin Valley Railroad. That firm has estimated a cost of approximately \$20,000 - \$28,000 for a similar study for Fresno County. Based on this estimate, we understand that the COG may have planning funds available this fiscal year to embark on such a study, and our staff would be pleased to work with you to develop a scope of work for such a study. We would appreciate your consideration of our request for this regional short-haul freight rail study.

Sincerely Yours,



Judith G. Case, Chairman
Fresno County Board of Supervisors

C: Fresno County Board of Supervisors, John Navarrette, County Administrative Officer
Tony Boren, Executive Director, Council of Fresno County Governments
Lynn Gorman, F.C. Dept. of Public Works & Planning, Jeanette Ishii, F.C. Economic Development Coordinator