



June 28, 2007

City of San José
Attn: Mr. Darryl Boyd
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, California 95113-1905

**SUBJECT: Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the
Coyote Valley Specific Plan**

Dear Mr. Boyd:

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County is the Regional Transportation Planning Agency and Congestion Management Agency for Monterey County. Transportation Agency staff has reviewed the draft Environmental Impact Report for the Coyote Valley Specific Plan, which proposes the development of approximately 7,000 acres within the southern portion of the City of San José sphere of influence along U.S. 101. Our agency appreciates the opportunity to review the draft document and offers the following comments for your consideration:

Caltrain Rail Service

1. The draft document indicates that within the study area, eight directional freeway segments along U.S. 101, increasing to ten segments under the specific plan, will operate at unacceptable levels of service, with direct impacts contributed from the proposed development. The preferred mitigation to address these significant impacts is identified as a widening of U.S. 101, which the document does not consider to be feasible. In lieu of freeway widening, the document outlines plans for transit enhancements and improvements to commuter rail, light rail, and bus rapid transit lines as means to lessen the development's significant impacts to regional facilities (MM Tran-17).

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County is planning to extend Caltrain service from Gilroy to the City of Salinas. This service extension will complement the proposed commuter rail station in the Coyote Valley development by offering increased opportunities for ridership and consequently congestion relief on U.S. 101, as indicated in the enclosed letter of support for the Caltrain extension from the City of San José. Our agency supports the development's plans to construct a rail station at Coyote Valley as well as the development's proposal to contribute to increased transit services in the area. Our agency requests that the document recognize the benefit of the Caltrain extension to Salinas to the specific plan's U.S. 101 corridor mitigation.

2. Predicated on the settlement agreement dated September 11, 2001, between the City of Salinas and the City of San José in which the developer is required to fund an analysis of regional transportation issues upon the issuance of the first commercial building permit, the

Transportation Agency recommends that the City of San José and the developer work closely with the City of Salinas to identify impacts and appropriate mitigation measures for regional facilities south of the current project study area.

3. Under section 4.2.1.2, the document indicates that Caltrain operates four northbound trains during the morning commute and four southbound trains during the evening commute. This should be revised to note that Caltrain currently only operates three north and southbound trains.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this document. If you would like to discuss these comments further, please contact Michael Zeller of my staff at (831) 775-0903.

Sincerely,



Debra L. Hale
Executive Director

Enclosure: City of San Jose Caltrain Extension Letter of Support

cc: Dave Murray, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 5
Ron Lundquist, Monterey County Department of Public Works
Robert Russell, City of Salinas
Carl Sedoryk, Monterey-Salinas Transit
Nicholas Papadakis, AMBAG
Douglas Quentin, Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District
Colleen Valles, Santa Clara County District 1
Forrest Williams, City of San Jose

June 14, 2007

Mr. Dwayne Weeks
Federal Transit Administration
Office of Environmental Planning, TPE-22
400 7th Street, SW, Rm. 9413
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for Caltrain Extension to Monterey County Project

Dear Mr. Weeks:

The City of San Jose would like to extend its support for the Transportation Agency for Monterey County's Caltrain Extension to Monterey County. Initiating rail service in Monterey County will assist in our goal of increasing regional and interregional transportation alternatives.

As fuel prices soar, commuters are seeking alternatives to driving alone. Caltrain Extension to Monterey County is an important addition to the transportation options given to residents. The Caltrain Extension to Monterey County project is a commuter rail service extension with projected ridership estimates of 530,000 riders per year. The service will provide an alternative to the heavily congested Highway 101 corridor for workers traveling from Monterey County and Santa Cruz County to jobs in Silicon Valley and northward. This service will also make it possible for residents to access health care, shopping and entertainment in the Silicon Valley, San Jose and San Francisco without being forced to fight traffic and congestion on the highways.

The proposed project includes intermodal facilities in three locations in Monterey County, and would encourage transit-oriented developments around the stations in Pajaro/ Watsonville, Castroville and Salinas. The Agency anticipates the start of service in 2011.

The City of San Jose supports this important transportation project and asks that you support the Transportation Agency's request for the next phase of work.

Sincerely,



Chuck Reed
Mayor

cc: Debbie Hale, Executive Director, Transportation Agency for Monterey County
Congressman Sam Farr, CA-17