



CITY OF MURRIETA

August 17, 2020

Mr. David Kim
Secretary, California State Transportation Agency
915 Capitol Mall, Suite 350B
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Xpress West Rail Extension to Rancho Cucamonga

Dear Secretary Kim,

On behalf of the City of Murrieta, I want to thank you and your administration for the support of several proposed and developing transportation projects, which the San Bernardino County Transportation Agency is leading and the City of Rancho Cucamonga is supporting, that will have a positive impact for the Inland Empire region.

Notable among these innovative projects are Xpress West's proposed high-speed rail from Las Vegas to Victorville, including a proposed extension into Rancho Cucamonga; a proposed underground transit tunnel from Ontario International Airport (ONT) to Rancho Cucamonga Metrolink station (a first for California); a high-speed Bus Rapid Transit system from Pomona to Ontario Airport, Ontario Mills, Rancho Cucamonga Metrolink station and Victoria Gardens Regional Shopping Center; and finally the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority's efforts in bringing zero-emission passenger trains to the Metrolink system. Together, these projects will create a highly efficient and sustainable multi-modal transit network in the Inland Empire - an emerging economic and employment hub and one of the fastest-growing population centers in Southern California.

Of particular note, the proposed extension of the Xpress West high-speed rail project from Vegas to the Rancho Cucamonga Metrolink station is critical. It will bring increased interstate commerce, reduce traffic congestion on the I-15 freeway, a key transportation and goods movement corridor, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and provide much needed construction jobs and income to help expedite an economic recovery from COVID-19.

The additional segment into Rancho Cucamonga will result in the creation of affordable and market rate housing as well as quickly linking high-speed rail into the Metrolink system, with future connections possible southward to San Diego County as well as eastward towards the Palm Springs area. This project will bring much needed public and private funds to a major two-county (San Bernardino and Riverside) area while leveraging and amplifying private investment to a region that has powered the State's economy since the Great Recession. Moving forward with the Rancho Cucamonga segment still allows for future completion of the High Desert Corridor link from Victorville to Palmdale and the planning and funding of that segment can be assembled while the Rancho Cucamonga segment is under construction.



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The City of Murrieta is supportive of providing varied transportation options for our communities and expediting the economic recovery in the Inland Empire. We are thrilled to support the private investments, jobs, cleaner air and new housing opportunities that the Express West extension to Rancho Cucamonga would bring. We urge you to support this worthwhile proposal.

Thank you for your continued support for these innovative transportation solutions that are reshaping connectivity and mobility access in our region. Please let me know how we can work together to bring this project to fruition and provide high quality transportation to the Inland Empire. If you have any questions, or need more information, please contact Louie Lacasella, City Manager's Office at (951) 461-6008 or llacasella@MurrietaCA.Gov.

Sincerely,

Gene Wunderlich
Mayor

Cc: Murrieta City Council
Chris Dombrowski, Chair, IBank - *California Infrastructure and Economic Development*
The Honorable Fiona Ma, Board Member, IBank
Keely Martin Bosler, Board Member, IBank
Marc Steinorth, Board Member, IBank
Jason Elliott, Governor's Office
Mark Tollefson, Governor's Office
Senator Melissa Melendez
Erin Sasse, League of California Cities Public Affairs manager