

MONTEREY COUNTY



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January 19, 2023

Toks Omishakin, Secretary
California State Transportation Agency
915 Capitol Mall, Suite 350B
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: Support for Pajaro/Watsonville Multimodal Transit Hub Project

Dear Secretary Omishakin:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors to express support for the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) grant application for the Pajaro/Watsonville Multimodal Transit Hub Project.

California's Central Coast and the Monterey Bay Area is an underserved passenger rail region of the State. Currently, Amtrak's Coast Starlight, which stops twice a day in Salinas on its way between Los Angeles and Seattle, is the only passenger rail service available to Monterey County residents. A considerable number of Monterey County residents commute to Silicon Valley and the San Francisco Bay Area. Initiating rail service in Monterey County will assist TAMC in meeting its goal to increase regional and interregional transportation alternatives for the heavily congested corridors between Monterey County and San Jose.

TAMC is the sponsor of the project to extend passenger rail service to Monterey County. The Pajaro/Watsonville Multimodal Transit Hub is part of the larger Monterey County Rail Extension project. Once complete, the station will act as a regional hub and important node in the planned rail network. The multimodal station will be served by new passenger rail service and bus transit that will connect residents of Monterey County and Santa Cruz County to employment, education and healthcare centers in the Silicon Valley, San Jose, and the greater San Francisco Bay Area.

The County of Monterey supports this important alternative transportation project and asks that you approve the project's grant request. Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

Luis A. Alejo, Chair
Monterey County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Todd Muck, Executive Director, Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC)