



Ventura County
Air Pollution
Control District

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Michael Villegas
Air Pollution Control Officer

January 8, 2018

Mr. Brian P. Kelly
Secretary
California State Transportation Agency
915 Capitol Mall, Suite 350B
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SBCAG 2017 TIRCP Grant Application

Dear Mr. Kelly:

As the Air Pollution Control Officer for the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (District), I support the 2018 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) grant application submitted by the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG). The funding would support fleet expansion and facility improvements and enable expanded electric-powered Coastal Express bus service between Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

The District supports efforts to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG), ozone-forming nitrogen oxides (NOx) and reactive organic compounds (ROC) in the region. Moving towards zero emission transit vehicles, especially those used in long distance transit services, would result in a dramatic reduction in GHG and ozone emissions. The Coastal Express, funded jointly by SBCAG and the Ventura County Transportation Commission, is a successful commuter transit service, with a high fare-box recovery and a record of eliminating millions of vehicle miles travelled (VMTs) annually.

This grant would enable SBCAG and its partners to purchase electric buses, develop the facility improvements necessary to operate the service, and support the planned peak hour of the Pacific Surfliner rail service. The Coastal Express long distance bus service is well suited for electric coaches and will allow commuters to move seamlessly between regional bus service and intercity rail service for their transportation needs.

To support the state's critical goal of reducing GHGs, and ozone-forming pollutants, as well as demonstrating leadership in the technical application of emerging zero-emission public transportation options, I strongly encourage the California State Transportation Agency to support SBCAG's 2017 TIRCP grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Villegas", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Villegas
Air Pollution Control Officer

Cc: Scott Spaulding, SBCAG