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PROPERTY, AND THE INTERNET

September 9, 2019

Mr. Carl Guardino  
President and CEO  
Silicon Valley Leadership Group  
2001 Gateway Place, Suite 101E  
San Jose, CA 95110

Mr. Jim Wunderman  
President and CEO  
Bay Area Council  
353 Sacramento Street, 10th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94111

Ms. Alicia John-Baptiste  
President and CEO  
San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR)  
654 Mission Street.  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Mr. Guardino, Mr. Wunderman, and Ms. John-Baptiste:

I am writing today in support of the Tri-Valley – San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority's (Valley Link) request for the inclusion of \$1.9 billion for the Altamont Corridor Vision Phase 1 Improvements Program (ACVPIP) as part of FASTER Bay Area, which the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, Bay Area Council, and SPUR are working to have on the November 2020 ballot for Bay Area voters.

The Altamont Corridor that connects San Joaquin Valley to the Bay Area is one of the most heavily traveled, most congested, and fastest growing corridors in Northern California. Rather than simply expanding freeways to accommodate this increasing automobile traffic, a robust passenger rail alternative in the Altamont Corridor would increase mobility and connectivity while helping the area achieve the environmental and economic goals set by the State of California and communities in the area. The ACVPIP would be the first step towards substantially increasing regional rail ridership and improve some of the Bay Area's most congested freeways. Improving commuter rail with new double tracking and separation from freight rail, the ACVPIP would have a deeply positive effect for underserved communities as a more convenient and inexpensive alternative to traditional commutes would become available for them. Valley Link's potential ability to receive funds from FASTER Bay Area would further aid in its efforts to improve regional rail service in the Altamont Corridor and beyond. With this source of local funding, Valley Link and its partners would also be able to leverage more state and federal funding for future projects.

Given the large and positive impact the ACVPIP would have if implemented, I fully support Valley Link's request that it be included as part of the FASTER Bay Area measure. I respectfully ask that you give its request full and fair consideration, in accordance with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

Sincerely,



Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress