



**Chair of the Board**

Vic Baker  
*PG&E*

**Chair-Elect**

Ken Mintz  
*AT&T*

**Vice President – Finance**

Terri Montgomery  
*Eide Bailly*

**Vice President – Leadership Development**

Bielle Moore  
*Republic Services*

**Vice President - Events**

Peggy White  
*Diablo Regional Arts Association*

**Vice President – Talent & Workforce**

Bob Linscheid  
*Linscheid Enterprises*

**Vice President – Economic Development & Jobs**

Dennis Costanza  
*FivePoint*

**Vice President – Communications**

Wendy Gutshall  
*Safeway*

**Vice President – Membership**

Wade Martin  
*Oakland A's*

**Chief Legal Counsel**

Horace Green  
*Brothers Smith, LLP*

**Vice President - Infrastructure**

Leo Scott  
*Gray Bowen Scott*

**Immediate Past Chair**

Sharon Quesada-Jenkins  
*John Muir Health*

**President & CEO**

Kristin B. Connelly

October 1, 2019

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

Jim Wunderman, President and CEO  
Bay Area Council  
353 Sacramento Street, 10th Floor

Alicia John-Baptiste, President and CEO  
SPUR  
654 Mission Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-4015

RE: FASTER Bay Area

Dear Carl, Jim, and Alicia:

The East Bay Leadership Council is pleased to be a partner on the emerging FASTER Bay Area transportation measure that your organizations are sponsoring. The East Bay Leadership Council (EBLC) is an employer-led public policy advocacy organization focused on increasing economic vitality and quality of life in the East Bay. As an organization, we are invested in improving our transportation infrastructure, reducing commutes and making transit more accessible.

We are excited to engage in the robust discussions occurring throughout our region aimed at creating transformational change to our current transportation systems. Amongst these important efforts is the Contra Costa Transportation Authority's (CCTA) proposed ballot measure for March 2020. This measure was thoughtfully designed and shares in the FASTER effort's goals of reducing congestion, increasing transit use, and fostering innovation. These complimentary measures are pivotal in creating the transportation network needed to keep our economy and community thriving. We hope to be a partner with you on both.

We appreciate the work you have done in partnership to develop the FASTER proposal in preparation for the November 2020 ballot. EBLC strongly supports the inclusion of \$1.9 billion for the Altamont Corridor Vision Phase 1 Improvements Program as part of the emerging FASTER Bay Area transportation measure. We also acknowledge the challenge you face in balancing how funds would be distributed in FASTER and whether all potentially funded projects will be outlined in the measure. Should the measure develop with a project-specific expenditure plan, we strongly support the inclusion of the Altamont Corridor Vision Phase 1 Improvements Program. Should the measure be developed as an outline for potential investments based on metrics, we would hope the Altamont Corridor Vision Phase 1 Improvements Program be included amongst the highlighted projects.

The Altamont Corridor that connects the San Joaquin Valley to the Bay Area is one of the most heavily traveled, most congested, and fastest growing corridors in the Northern California megaregion.

The Altamont Corridor Vision Phase 1 Improvement Program will provide safe, frequent, and reliable regional rail service by modernizing passenger rail in the Altamont Corridor. The vastly improved infrastructure through the Altamont Pass would be separated from freight, double tracked, grade separated, and enable fast (up to 125 mph maximum speeds), and frequent service. The Altamont Corridor Vision Phase 1 Improvement Program is the first step towards the completion of the Altamont Corridor Vision which is consistent with the 2018 State Rail Plan, 2007 MTC Regional Rail Plan, MTC Resolution 3829 from 2007, and the CHSRA's Altamont Corridor Rail Project.

The transformative Altamont Corridor Vision Phase 1 Improvement Program would have a very positive effect on the Northern California Megaregion's underserved priority and rural communities by providing a convenient and inexpensive alternative to the rising costs of automobile use. Connecting these San Joaquin Valley communities to the Bay Area's large economic centers would increase safe and affordable transportation options between these communities.

We are pleased to provide this letter of strong support of the Altamont Corridor Vision Phase 1 Improvement Program to be included as part of FASTER Bay Area to help move the Bay Area and the Northern California Megaregion forward.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristin Connelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kristin Connelly  
President & CEO