



September 9, 2019

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

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

Jim Wunderman, President & CEO  
Bay Area Council  
353 Sacramento Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 64111

RE: FASTER Bay Area & Altamont Corridor Vision Phase 1 Improvement Program

Dear Carl, Jim and Alicia:

I am writing on behalf of the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce, a business advocacy organization representing nearly 500 members from a cross-section of private/public and non-profit sectors that employ nearly 20,000 workers.

I understand that the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, Bay Area Council and SPUR are working in partnership to place FASTER Bay Area measure on the November 2020 ballot for Bay Area voters. LVCC and Chambers of Commerce throughout the Tri-Valley welcome the opportunity to work with your organizations to develop and support a measure that promises to deliver a vision for a transformative transportation system that reaches all corners of the region. Closing the gaps to produce an extensive Bay Area-wide regional rail system including connectivity to neighboring regions to improve access to jobs, workers and housing now and for future generations.

For these reasons, LVCC strongly supports the inclusion of \$2 billion for the Altamont Corridor Vision Phase 1 Improvements Program in Alameda County as part of FASTER Bay Area. Moving people and goods better and faster than the status quo will strengthen the economy through lower costs and impacts to business, to the environment and to the people that live, work and visit the 9 counties and 101 cities throughout the SF Bay Area region. The Altamont Corridor is a gateway that connects the San Joaquin Valley region to the Bay Area, and is one of the most heavily traveled, chronically congested and fastest growing corridors in the Northern California megaregion. The Bay Area Council estimates that congestion will increase an additional 75% between 2016 and 2040. A robust

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passenger rail alternative in the Altamont Corridor meets the need for a sustainable transportation option, greater connectivity and economic reliability in the Northern California megaregion; better access to jobs, educational opportunities and health care facilities; and a better quality of life for those that live, work and travel through this corridor.

The Altamont Corridor Vision Phase 1 has been developed over many years through a collaborative effort established by the Tri-Valley and San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority & Valley Link; San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission; San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority and the Altamont Corridor Express, comprised of representatives from multiple counties and cities along the entire alignment. LVCC supports this effort. The completion of the Vision Phase 1 will benefit the Tri-Valley and San Joaquin Valley, as well as the entire Bay Area region with improved rail connectivity between these and the Bay Area's major urban core cities.

For more details on the Altamont Corridor Vision Phase 1, contact Dan Levitt at the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission [dan@acerail.com](mailto:dan@acerail.com) and/or Michael Tree at the Tri-Valley-San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority at [mtree@lavta.org](mailto:mtree@lavta.org).

The Altamont Corridor Vision Phase 1 project(s) will deliver a relatively low-cost (in the realm of major transportation infrastructure projects) rail option that directly serves workers, residents and visitors with many benefits for the economy and environment, delivering a good return on investment on precious public funds. LVCC urges you to include the Altamont Corridor Vision Phase 1 project in any considerations for a FASTER Bay Area measure.

Respectfully,

*Dawn P. Argula*

Dawn P. Argula  
President & CEO

C: LVCC Board of Directors  
Tri-Valley Chamber of Commerce Alliance  
Altamont Corridor Vision Phase 1 Partnership