



July 31, 2020

Mitch Weiss, Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street MS 52
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Support for SB1 Solutions for Congested Corridors Program (SCCP) Placer-Sacramento Gateway Plan Cycle 2 Grant Application

Dear Mr. Weiss:

On behalf of **Sierra Club - Sacramento Group and Placer Group**, we are writing to confirm our support for the Placer-Sacramento Gateway Cycle 2 grant application for inclusion in the California Transportation Commission's SB1 Solutions for Congested Corridors Program that will allow our counties to meet state and local reduction of Vehicle Miles Travel and Greenhouse Gas goals while addressing the mobility issues that continue to burden our members.

To improve the quality of life in a sustainable economy projects must efficiently provide everyone, including pedestrians, bicyclists and transit users, with adequate access to jobs, shopping, services and recreation. The improvements to the transportation systems that would come from the implementation of the Gateway Plan represents a unique opportunity to make those connections while reducing traffic congestion, in a way that is environmentally responsible for our economic rebound. That's why we support this funding application.

We support projects that promote alternative modes of transportation by encouraging compact mixed-use land use patterns that prioritize walking and biking over vehicles, building and supporting public transit, reducing and eventually eliminating parking, encouraging shared vehicle use, and using pricing and other incentives to equitably promote alternatives to driving. By way of background, the Gateway Corridor experiences increasing bi-directional travel between Sacramento and Placer counties carrying nearly 270,000 vehicles during a typical weekday. Motorists experience delays resulting in longer and less reliable travel times. Most corridor travel requires use of a private vehicle. Opportunities to take transit, walk or bike are currently limited. By 2040, an additional 150,000 residents and 100,000 employees are anticipated to live and work in the corridor.

The Gateway Plan represents "Regional Voices for Mobility Choices" because it addresses these challenges by adding real choice to the regional transportation system. Both the Sacramento and Placer Group would like to express our support of the Cycle 2 grant application, in particular, the

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new intercity express bus service, bicycle facilities, complete streets improvements, an upgrade to the Watt Avenue light rail station, and modernization of corridor light rail vehicles.

In short, it is a transformational opportunity to improve the way we get around.

For these reasons, we ask you to give full consideration of the Gateway Cycle 2 grant application to the California Transportation Commission and look forward to construction of these key transportation improvements.

Sincerely,



Casey Mills
Executive Chair
Placer Group | Sierra Club



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