



December 1, 2022

Honorable Tom Richards  
Chair, California High-Speed Rail Authority  
770 L Street, Suite 620-MS-1  
Sacramento, CA 95814

*RE: High Desert Corridor JPA Comments to CA High Speed Rail Authority Draft EIR/EIS for the Palmdale to Burbank Section. Sent via email to [Palmdale\\_Burbank@hsr.ca.gov](mailto:Palmdale_Burbank@hsr.ca.gov)*

On behalf of the High Desert Corridor JPA (HDC) members Los Angeles County, 5<sup>th</sup> Supervisorial District, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro) and the Cities of Adelanto, Lancaster, Palmdale, and Victorville are pleased to submit comments to the California High-Speed Rail Authority *Draft EIR/EIS for the Palmdale to Burbank Section*.

The High Desert Corridor JPA strongly supports the Bakersfield to Palmdale Section. The HDC JPA Member Jurisdictions appreciate the CA HSR Authority staff cooperative approach on design elements as the CA high-speed rail project environmental documents continue through the process.

HDC JPA supports the comments being sent under separate cover by HDC JPA Member Jurisdictions Los Angeles County, and LA Metro, as well comments sent by North Los Angeles County Transportation Coalition JPA Member Jurisdictions, Santa Clarita, and Palmdale.

When construction funding becomes available beyond the current segments under construction in the Central Valley, the HDC JPA strongly urges the CA High-Speed Rail Authority allocate construction funds to the Bakersfield to Palmdale Section. The CA HSRA project along with the High Desert Corridor JPA High Speed Rail Project achieve interoperability of high-speed rail systems connecting to the CA State Rail Plan to serve North Los Angeles County and the high desert communities in San Bernardino and Los Angeles Counties.

The High Desert Corridor JPA High Speed Rail project is currently advancing the Rail Component from the 2016 Locally Preferred Alternative toward a Record of Decision in 2023.

We look forward to working with the CA High-Speed Rail Authority to make high-speed rail a reality for the high-desert communities in Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Arthur V. Sohikian".

Arthur V. Sohikian  
Executive Director