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**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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May 23, 2007

Mr. Dwayne Weeks  
Federal Transit Administration  
Office of Environmental Planning, TPE-22  
400 7th Street, SW, Rm. 9413  
Washington, D.C. 20590

**SUBJECT: Support for Caltrain Extension to Monterey County Project**

Dear Mr. Weeks:

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission would like to extend its support of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County's Caltrain Extension to Monterey County. Initiating rail service in Monterey County will assist in our combined goal of increasing regional and interregional transportation alternatives.

As fuel prices soar, commuters are seeking alternatives to driving alone. Caltrain Extension to Monterey County is an important addition to the transportation options given to residents. The Caltrain Extension to Monterey County project is a commuter rail service extension with projected ridership estimates of 530,000 riders per year. The service will provide an alternative to the heavily congested Highway 101 corridor for workers traveling from Monterey County and Santa Cruz County to jobs in Silicon Valley and northward. This service will also make it possible for residents to access health care, shopping and entertainment in the Silicon Valley, San Jose and San Francisco without being forced to fight traffic and congestion on the highways.

The proposed project includes intermodal facilities in three locations in Monterey County, and would encourage transit-oriented developments around the stations in Pajaro/Watsonville (primarily serving Santa Cruz County), Castroville and Salinas. The Agency anticipates the start of service in 2011.

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission supports this important transportation project and asks that you support the Transportation Agency's request for the next phase of work.

Sincerely,

George Dondero  
Executive Director

cc: Debbie Hale, Executive Director, Transportation Agency for Monterey County  
Congressman Sam Farr, CA-17