



February 8, 2017

Roland Velasco
Mayor
City of Gilroy
7351 Rosanna St.
Gilroy, CA 95020

Via email: roland.velasco@cityofgilroy.org

Subject: Support of High-Speed Rail Station in Downtown Gilroy

Dear Mayor Velasco:

On behalf of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC), I am writing in support of locating the Gilroy High Speed Rail station downtown. The downtown station would have a direct connection to all existing and planned trains serving Gilroy.

TAMC is planning for the extension of rail passenger service to Monterey County. TAMC's rail project will result in removing auto trips from Highways 1, 101 and 156. The Monterey County rail extension project will complement and connect with the High-Speed Rail system directly at the downtown Gilroy station. Gilroy's economy will benefit from increased investment in infrastructure in the region and around the train station in downtown Gilroy.

The Leavesley Road station would be detrimental to regional traffic and air quality, as it would not include a direct connection to the regional rail system and passengers on the High Speed Rail network would be more likely to drive to that outer station. The Leavesley Road station would also be a drain on the local economy, removing the vitality from the downtown area and relocating it to the mall area.

The three-county Monterey Bay Area had a population of 733,000 in 2010, and is projected to reach nearly a million residents by the year 2030. Our growing population needs an alternative means of getting to jobs, health care, and shopping around the region and across the state. Increased access to the rail network and connectivity to the high-speed rail system in Gilroy will help the region be more sustainable economically, environmentally and socially.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this exciting project.

Sincerely,


Debra L. Hale
Executive Director

cc: California High Speed Rail Authority Northern California Regional Director Ben Tripousis
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority General Manager Nuria Fernandez
Silicon Valley Leadership Group President & CEO Carl Guardino