



## City of Salinas

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April 11, 2017

The Honorable Anthony Cannella  
12<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
State Capitol, Room 5082  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
*Via U.S. Mail and E-mail to Tyler.Munzing@sen.ca.gov*

**RE: Support for SB 477 (Cannella): Intercity Rail Corridors: Extensions**

Dear Senator Cannella:

On behalf of the City of Salinas, I am writing in support of Senate Bill (SB) 477: Intercity Rail Corridors: Extensions (as amended, March 27, 2017). This bill would authorize the extension of intercity passenger rail service beyond the currently defined boundaries of the corridor, subject to inclusion in and approval of the relevant joint powers board's business plan. **The City of Salinas supports this bill.**

This bill would enable two emerging passenger rail projects planned for Monterey County to be operated by existing joint powers boards. The City of Salinas has long advocated for an extension of passenger rail service from San Jose to Salinas. SB 477 would allow the Capitol Corridor to extend south of San Jose, which will provide an alternative to the highly congested US 101 corridor to access to jobs, education, and healthcare in the Silicon Valley and the San Francisco Bay Area. Bringing new rail service to the Salinas train station is a key feature of the City's Vibrancy Plan.

Since 1992, the Coast Rail Coordinating Council, a coalition of coastal county transportation and planning agencies, has advocated for increased passenger rail service on the coastline, possibly as an extension of passenger rail service north of San Luis Obispo to San Jose/San Francisco. SB 477 would allow the Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor to extend north of San Luis Obispo, to close a gap in passenger rail service along the California coast. This service would also stop at the Salinas train station.

Thank you very much for your authorship of this important bill and for supporting efforts to improve transportation in California.

Sincerely,

Joe Gunter

cc: Debra L. Hale, TAMC Executive Director (*via e-mail only*)