



December 20, 2022

The Honorable Nuria Fernandez
Administrator, Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

SUBJECT: Support for Sacramento Regional Transit District in the FTA Rail Vehicle Replacement Program

Dear Administrator Fernandez:

The Environmental Council of Sacramento strongly supports SacRT's application for funding from the Rail Vehicle Replacement Program. The grant funds would allow SacRT to purchase eight modern low-floor light rail vehicles. These vehicles are sorely needed as SacRT is one of only two transit agencies nationwide that still operates a legacy fleet of high-floor light rail vehicles. Also, these vehicles will be built locally in Sacramento.

The new low-floor vehicles would be a key part of SacRT's ongoing Light Rail Modernization Project that provides vital transportation infrastructure to equitably improve accessibility, provide clean mobility, and lead to a more efficient movement of people and goods.

SacRT's 43-mile light rail system extends throughout Sacramento County with its hub in the City of Sacramento, the state capitol of the 4th largest economy in the world. An FTA grant for low-floor LRVs would improve the transit network, and it would leverage California's large investment in network connectivity and safety in the Northern California megaregion in passenger transport and goods movement.

An FTA grant for low-floor LRVs would allow SacRT to increase capacity and accessibility for all customers, particularly disabled passengers, and it would improve safety and increase ridership. The current fleet of high-floor cars requires that individuals navigate steep stairs when boarding and deboarding, and limits passengers using mobility improvement devices to board the lead car only.

The Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS) was founded in 1971 as a visionary and action-oriented coalition for the region. Today the organizational and individual members of ECOS work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, promote smart growth land use and transportation principles, promote equity in housing, public health and opportunities, and promote regional habitat conservation.

Please consider funding SacRT's Light Rail Modernization Project for its local, regional, and national benefits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Herre".

Susan Herre AIA AICP
President of the Board of Directors