



ECOS

ENVIRONMENTAL
♦ COUNCIL ♦
OF SACRAMENTO

Post Office Box 1526 | Sacramento, CA 95812-1526

January 19, 2023

Mr. James Corless
Executive Director, SACOG
1415 L Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support of the Sacramento Regional Transit District's 2022 Maintenance & Modernization Regional Program (MMRP)
Grant Applications

Dear Mr. Corless:

On behalf of the Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS) we are pleased to provide this letter in enthusiastic support of Sacramento Regional Transit's (SacRT) 2022 application for a \$5M grant from the Maintenance & Modernization Regional Program (MMRP) for the Folsom Light Rail Station Conversion and a \$4.5M grant for Railroad Tie Replacement Projects.

The Folsom Light Rail Station project will modernize three light rail station platforms to optimize the passenger experience by providing improved accommodations with boarding/un-boarding by aligning station platforms with new low-floor light rail vehicles, and adjusting and relocating existing handrails, station furniture and signage, as needed.

The Railroad Tie Replacement Project, between College Greens and 34th Street on the Gold Line, will provide much-needed improvements in rail safety, regional connectivity, and equitable mobility. This project involves removing and replacing 2.55 miles of worn-out track that have greatly exceeded their useful life.

SacRT is one of only two transit agencies nationwide that still operates a legacy fleet of high-floor light rail vehicles. The requested grant funding will enable SacRT to modernize its system for low-floor vehicles to accommodate easier access for all customers, particularly disabled passengers. 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. Low-floor access to light rail will improve access, mobility, and safety, and increase ridership.

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, promote sustainable regional water supply for all users, public health and opportunities, and promote regional habitat conservation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sam Rice
Transportation Team Lead

Susan Herre AIA AICP
President of the Board of Directors