



US Department of Housing and Urban Development
Fresno Area Office – 2135 Fresno Street – Fresno, CA 93721

Office of the Director

December 15, 2005

The Honorable Sunne Wright-McPeak
Secretary of the California Business
Transportation and Housing Agency
980 Ninth Street #2450
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Alan Lloyd
Secretary of the California Environment
Protection Agency
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95812

Dear Secretary Wright-McPeak and Secretary Lloyd:

As a federal official I have no business advocating on behalf of a state matter. However, as the coordinator for the Federal Interagency Task Force for the Economic Development of the San Joaquin Valley established by a Presidential Executive Order and complementing the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, I do want to inform you that our Task Force has strongly encouraged collaboration towards the development of a regional transportation plan—the exact kind of collaboration that this Master Plan for SR 99 demonstrates.

We believe that this collaboration is essential for both the economic development of the region as well as the health of the residents. We want to see not only the success of the Hwy 99 collaboration but see this be the beginning of a comprehensive regional transportation plan that will be able to move goods, services, and people into, out of, and through the Valley. The 99 Master Plan is key to that total plan.

Our Task Force is enjoined by the President to “coordinate and improve existing Federal efforts for the Valley, in concert with locally led efforts, in order to increase the living standards and the overall economic performance of the Valley.” Under this mandate, I assure you that I will do everything I can to enlist the support of the US Department of Transportation and all the federal agencies as you seek to implement this plan. I can do this confidently since I know that we have the full bipartisan support of our congressional delegation.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rolland F. Smith".

Rolland F Smith

Cc:

Assemblyman Arambula
Assemblyman Villines
Federal Regional Council