



December 15, 2005

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

The Honorable Alan Lloyd
Secretary of the California Environmental
Protection Agency
1001 I St.
Sacramento, CA 95812

Dear Secretary Wright-McPeak and Secretary Lloyd,

I am writing to respectfully request my comments be included as part of the Public Hearing taking place on 12-16-05 on the Goods Movement Action Plan.

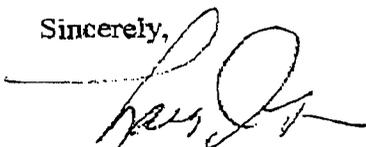
As a business owner in the transportation industry, I am involved with the Regional Jobs Initiative (RJI) – Logistics cluster. Initially, the goal of the RJI is to add 30,000 net new jobs in Fresno and Madera counties over the five year period ending on December 31, 2008. The larger goal of the RJI is to help bring about a fundamental transformation of the path to economic development of the San Joaquin Valley. Based on an industry cluster approach, the RJI aims to build a more diversified Valley economy, competing on value rather than low cost. This restructuring of the Valley's economy will require that we redress decades of neglect of the Valley's physical infrastructure. Highway 99 is just one example of this infrastructure shortfall.

Upgrade of SR 99 to an Interstate has been a top priority of the RJI since its inception. A necessary step in that direction is the implementation of the Caltrans Master Plan for SR 99, developed and recently released by Caltrans. That plan needs to be implemented in the shortest possible time to relieve congestion, reduce emissions, and anticipate the growth in goods movement on SR 99. Recently, the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley met and asked California to invest \$6 billion to finance improvements in the 99 corridor over the next ten years, an amount reflected in the Master Plan.

As necessary as they are, investments in California ports without equal investment in SR 99, would only make the San Joaquin Valley a bottleneck for goods movement in California. This is due in part to the fact that SR 99 carries more goods movement than any other major north-south corridor in the country. It is not only the lifeline of the San Joaquin Valley but also the commerce corridor for the State of California and vital to the efficient movement of \$14 billion of agricultural products to the rest of the nation. The corridor already experiences **three times** the state average in truck traffic. With an expected growth rate of 60% over the next twenty years, SR 99 is in urgent need of expansion!

I would like to acknowledge the leadership you are providing to the long overdue improvement of our State's infrastructure, and thank you both for your consideration of this request to include SR 99 as a critically important project in the Goods Movement Action Plan.

Sincerely,



Larry Johanson
President