



# Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority

4900 Rivergrade Rd. Ste. A120 Irwindale, CA 91706 (626) 962-9292 fax (626) 962-3552 www.theaceproject.

## Board Members

**Ernest Gutierrez**  
Chair  
El Monte

**Gloria Molina**  
Los Angeles County

**Harry Baldwin**  
San Gabriel

**Carol Herrera**  
Diamond Bar

**George Hunter**  
Pomona

**Phil Marcellin**  
Industry

**Bob Bagwell**  
Montebello

**Paul Eaton**  
Ex Officio  
SANBAG

**Rick Richmond**  
Chief Executive Officer

February 24, 2006

Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak  
Business, Transportation & Housing Agency  
State of California  
980 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 2450  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Comments on California Goods Movement Action Plan-Phase II

Dear Secretary McPeak:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Phase II of the Plan. The Plan does an excellent job of documenting the challenges facing California and actions necessary to preserve the State's premier standing as the nation's trade capital.

We applaud you and the Governor's leadership to establish an Action Plan to keep goods moving in California. We support your goal to promote the efficient, safe delivery of goods to the four key corridors outlined in the plan, as well as mitigate the environmental impacts of goods movement on adjacent communities and businesses. Our cities have been working together on this delicate balance for the last ten years when we became aware of the significant impacts to our residents and businesses.

We support your Phase II plan approach to include short-term, intermediate term and long term actions to achieve these goals. We are appreciative that that the ACE Project is recommended for Short Term action (0-3 years) and Intermediate-Term Action (4-10 years) as shown on Page IV-3 and Appendix D-2. The ACE Project has been categorized in the list of recommended infrastructure and operations projects. We accept the premise that projects cannot be listed more than once; however, we strongly believe the ACE Project easily qualifies for the public health and environmental impact mitigation category, the community impact mitigation and workforce development category, and the public safety category based upon the benefits summarized below.

The 31 cities of San Gabriel Valley are working together to balance the quality of life for our two million residents, foster economic vitality for our business communities and at the same time support the continuing explosion of trade from the LA and Long Beach Ports through our region to the rest of the State and nation. After more than a year of study of the rail freight impact on our communities, the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments unanimously adopted the Alameda Corridor East Project in 1998 and formed the Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority to construct the \$950 million project. It is supported on a bi-partisan basis by the Valley's 14 state legislators and five Congressional members. The project is also supported by the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership as a key transportation infrastructure improvement necessary to ensure the delivery of goods and services to local businesses.

The San Gabriel Valley portion of the four-county Project shown on Appendix D-2 is under construction and Phase I is funded. Phase II is not currently funded (\$500 million).

We hope that with the state's partnership and the financing options you have identified, we along with the San Gabriel Valley cities can secure the needed funding and have the remaining ten grade separations in Phase II built or in construction by 2010.

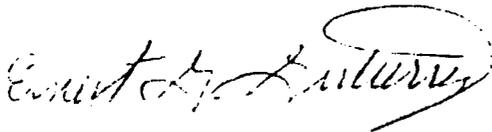
Upon completion, ACE Project benefits will include:

- Eliminating 221 tons of air emissions annually in the worst air basin in the nation;
- Avoiding a projected 300% increase in auto/truck delay at 20 grade separated crossings;
- Eliminating rail crossing vehicle accidents at 20 grade separations and greatly reducing their likelihood at the remaining 34 crossings in the San Gabriel Valley;
- Elimination of hornblowing at 20 crossings;
- Supporting increased use of rail freight by incorporating capacity expansion into 20 grade separations; and
- Protecting 634,000 existing San Gabriel Valley jobs and 192,000 new jobs projected by 2020.

We understand you and the Governor have indicated that the ACE Project is one of the Administration's top goods movement priorities to finish by the end of the decade. We appreciate your continuing support and inclusion of the project in the Phase II of the Action Plan. We believe the ACE Project is a model for providing adjacent community mitigations, reducing congestion chokepoints, reducing air pollution, and expanding freight capacity, while preserving economic vitality for local businesses.

In conclusion, we support your Phase II Action Plan and look forward to working with your staff in implementing it. Thank you for your leadership and energy in undertaking this important effort that affects the quality of life for our cities, residents, and businesses. Please feel free to contact Rick Richmond, Chief Executive Officer, at (626) 962-9292 should you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Ernest Gutierrez  
Chairman, ACE Construction Authority  
Mayor, City of El Monte

cc: SGVCOG Governing Board  
ACE Board of Directors  
Bill Carney, Executive Director SGV Economic Partnership  
SGV State Senators & Assemblymembers  
SGV Congressional Members  
Barry Sedlik, Deputy Secretary BT & H