

San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJJPA)  
Meeting Summary of July 28, 2017

Roll Call: Chair Vito Chiesa, Vice-Chair Pat Hume, Thomas Blalock, Rodrigo Espinoza, Andrew Medellin and Sal Quintero.

The meeting began with an award ceremony for Steve Cohn. Mr. Cohn is a former member of the Sacramento City Council and SacRT Board, as well as the founding Vice-Chair of the SJJPA. The award ceremony recognized Mr. Cohn's contribution toward establishing the SJJPA, serving as a founding Vice Chair, his continued role as Chair of the San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee, and his leadership role on the Sacramento Regional Rail Working Group.

The meeting included two key action items on the agenda (Items 6 & 7). Both of these passed unanimously. The first item (Item 6) was to have the SJJPA take action to move forward with the Sacramento Subdivision with environmental work for the expansion of San Joaquin service to/from Sacramento. The second item (Item 7) was for the SJJPA to authorize the SJJPA Executive Director to submit a Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) application which is expected to be due by the end of the year. The TIRCP application is for more San Joaquin service to/from Sacramento (to Natomas/Airport Connection) and is expected to also include extending Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) service to Sacramento.

There was extensive public comment in support of both items 6 & 7. There was an especially strong showing of public support from elected officials, agencies, and organizations representing the Sacramento Region. There were also a number of speakers from agencies and organizations throughout the San Joaquin Valley who spoke in support of the two items. Letters of support were received from Assembly Members Heath Flora, Dr. Joaquin Arambula and Kevin McCarty, as well as from Sacramento City Councilmember Steve Hansen. Shasta Regional Transportation Agency (SRTA) provided an information item to the SJJPA Board about their proposed express bus service to Sacramento. Part of the presentation included the recommendation that the SJJPA partner with the SRTA with their application. This partnership would include financial support that would be available by shortening the Amtrak Thruway Bus Route 3 and instead providing service to Redding through SRTA's proposed service.

The next meeting will be held at the Board Chambers of the San Joaquin Council of Governments on September 22, 2017.