



RailPAC

Rail Passenger Association
of California and Nevada

P.O. Box 22344
San Francisco CA 94122

www.railpac.org

December 28, 2021

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Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423-0001

ENTERED
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January 24 2022
Part of
Public Record

**Re: High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority-Construction and Operation
Exemption-Passenger Rail Line in Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties, CA,
STB Docket No. FD 35941**

Dear Ms. Brown:

The Rail Passengers Association of California and Nevada has examined the referenced Petition to the Surface Transportation Board filed by the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority (HDC JPA) requesting an exemption from the provisions of 49 United States Code Subtitle IV, Part A, which applies to Rail Interstate Transportation. Upon this examination the Rail Passenger Association of California and Nevada endorses and supports the HDC JPA's petition.

The high-speed rail project proposed by the HDC JPA is expected to provide a crucial high-speed rail link between the California High Speed Rail line at Palmdale and the Brightline high-speed rail line at Victorville. This would provide, in particular, a fast rail service between Los Angeles and Las Vegas, Nevada, as well as providing service between Central California and Victorville and Las Vegas. This would provide a through-service by high-speed rail that would mitigate traffic congestion and contribute to a reduction in carbon greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Thus, this rail connection will also help ensure the development and continuation of a sound rail transportation system to meet the needs of the public (See Footnote 95 of the Petition). This HDC Rail Project also will promote the Rail Transportation Policy goal of energy conservation.

For these reasons, the Rail Passengers Association of California and Nevada concludes that the High Desert Corridor rail project meets the objectives of 49 US Code § 10101 and should be exempted from regulations of 49 US Code Subtitle IV Part A and, in particular, § 10901 of the Code

Sincerely,

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Steve Roberts, President
Rail Passengers Association of California and Nevada

kkfloyd@venable.com

keastman@pacellp.com

chiom@metro.net