

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**FROM:** Supervisors John J. Benoit and Marion Ashley

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
February 18, 2014.

**SUBJECT:** Letter of Support and Resolution for California's Intercity Passenger Rail Program

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Send a letter of support for expansion of intercity passenger rail service to the Banning Pass and Coachella Valley communities to LOSSAN (Los Angeles-San Diego) corridor organization.
2. Pass Resolution number 2014-061

**BACKGROUND:**

**Summary**

For many years residents of the San Gorgonio Pass and Coachella Valley have been hoping for the expansion of intercity passenger rail service to their communities. Now RCTC is partnering with Caltrans to build the service development plan and update the State Rail Plan for a new Banning Pass-Coachella Valley route.

Continued on Page 2

*Marion Ashley*  
Marion Ashley  
Supervisor, Fifth District

*John J. Benoit*  
John J. Benoit  
Supervisor, Fourth District

Departmental Concurrence

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost:	POLICY/CONSENT (per Exec. Office)
COST	\$	\$	\$ Not Applicable	\$ Not Applicable	Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/>
NET COUNTY COST	\$	\$	\$ Not Applicable	\$ Not Applicable	
<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS:</b> not applicable				Budget Adjustment: _____	
				For Fiscal Year: _____	

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

- A-30
- Positions Added
- 4/5 Vote
- Change Order

Prev. Agn. Ref.:

District:

Agenda Number: -

**3-48**

Supervisor John J. Benoit and Supervisor Marion Ashley

Letter of Support and Resolution for California's Intercity Passenger Rail Program

February 18, 2014

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**BACKGROUND:** (Continued)

**Impact on Citizens and Businesses**

An intercity passenger rail system that reaches east to the San Geronio Pass and Coachella Valley communities would enable more efficient, economical and environmentally friendly travel back and forth between the coast and mid- and eastern Riverside County.

2  
3 **RESOLUTION NUMBER 2014-061**

4 **RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT**  
5 **FOR CALIFORNIA'S INTERCITY PASSENGER RAIL PROGRAM**  
6 **AND CONTINUED EXPANSION OF INTERCITY RAIL SERVICE**  
7 **TO THE BANNING PASS - COACHELLA VALLEY REGION**

8 **WHEREAS**, California's intercity passenger rail program has three existing rail routes  
9 that serve more than 5.5 million riders a year. These services generate good jobs, save time for  
10 passenger and motorists, reduce emissions, and promote private investment in sustainable  
11 communities; and

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, new regional intercity passenger rail service from Los Angeles to the  
14 Coachella Valley will ease congestion on local roads and freeways, providing new economic  
15 opportunity, improving mobility, and the quality of life in the Inland Empire; and

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17 **WHEREAS**, Amtrak currently runs the Sunset Limited train three days a week with  
18 service between Los Angeles and Coachella Valley in Riverside County at inconvenient  
19 schedules; and

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21 **WHEREAS**, there are limited public transit options exist between Coachella Valley, Los  
22 Angeles, and other locations in the Inland Empire; and

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24 **WHEREAS**, all local cities would benefit from the expanded travel options that would  
25 come from this new passenger rail service; and

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27 **WHEREAS**, the need for daily convenient intercity passenger rail service is growing as  
28 an environmental friendly alternate to the Interstate 10 and other congested corridors; and

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**WHEREAS**, the Inland Empire, Coachella Valley, and the Banning Pass Area are experiencing rapid population growth and demand on this route will continue to increase; and

**WHEREAS**, there is strong local support to establish new intercity rail passenger service in the Coachella Valley and the Banning Pass Area; and

**WHEREAS**, Riverside County Transportation Commission and the Coachella Valley Association of Governments have initiated project development and planning for this new corridor; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the county of Riverside does hereby support the California Intercity Rail Program and continued expansion of Intercity Rail Service from Los Angeles to the Banning Pass-Coachella Valley region.

The foregoing is certified to be a true copy of a resolution duly adopted by said Board of Supervisors on the date therein set forth.

KECIA HARPER-IHEM, Clerk of said Board

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy

# COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



## Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	John F. Tavaglione 951-955-1020
District 3	Jeff Stone 951-955-1030
District 4	John J. Benoit 951-955-1040
District 5	Marion Ashley 951-955-1050

February 25, 2014

LOSSAN Chairman Fred Strong  
550 South Main Street  
P.O. Box 14184  
Orange, CA 92863-1584

Subject: Letter of Support for California's Intercity Passenger Rail Program

Dear Chairman Strong:

Riverside County is pleased to support the California Intercity Passenger Rail Program and the continued expansion of intercity rail service to the Banning Pass-Coachella Valley.

California has established a proud tradition of investing in intercity rail to the tune of \$2.3 billion since 1990 for infrastructure, equipment, and operations. With this investment, California's three existing corridors – the Capitol Corridor, San Joaquin, and Los Angeles-San Diego (LOSSAN) – have become among the top performing Amtrak routes in the United States. In 2012 alone, more than 5.5 million riders boarded intercity trains in California, accounting for more than 20 percent of the nation's total.

This success can and must be continued. Extending intercity service to the Coachella Valley will strengthen our state's transportation system and economy. The Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) is partnering with Caltrans to build the service development plan and update the State Rail Plan for a new Banning Pass-Coachella Valley route. We strongly support completion of these plans and further efforts to identify state and federal funding for the new service.

California's existing intercity passenger rail program has proven to generate good jobs, save time for passenger and motorists, reduce emissions, and promote private investment in sustainable communities. Banning Pass-Coachella Valley service will do all of the above and more. Riverside County continues to be one of California's fastest growing regions, and a more attractive place for jobs and private investment.

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LOSSAN Chair Fred Strong  
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Furthermore, the desert region is an enormous contributor to California's tourism economy that continues to become more popular. Intercity rail service will provide vital connectivity to this dynamic segment of California, while creating a culture of sustainable development as the Inland Empire continues to grow.

Thank you for your efforts to sustain California's investment in intercity passenger rail.

Sincerely,

Jeff Stone  
Chairman  
Riverside County Board of Supervisors