

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



**ITEM: 3.33
(ID # 17529)**

MEETING DATE:

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

FROM : SUPERVISOR KAREN SPIEGEL AND SUPERVISOR V. MANUEL PEREZ :

SUBJECT: SUPERVISOR KAREN SPIEGEL AND SUPERVISOR V. MANUEL PEREZ:
Support for the Coachella Valley-San Gorgonio Pass Rail Corridor Service Project Application for Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Funding

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Support the Coachella Valley-San Gorgonio Pass Rail Corridor Service Project Application for Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Funding
2. Have Executive Office send attached letter to the Federal Railroad Administration

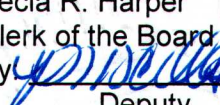
ACTION:Consent


Supervisor Karen Spiegel, Chair 10/21/2021

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Spiegel, seconded by Supervisor Perez and duly carried, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington and Perez
Nays: None
Absent: Hewitt
Date: October 26, 2021
xc: BOS District 2, BOS District 4, EO

Kecia R. Harper
Clerk of the Board
By 
Deputy

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

BACKGROUND:

Summary

The Executive Director of RCTC has asked the Riverside County Board of Supervisors to support the Coachella Valley-San Geronio Rail. Chair Karen Spiegel and Supervisor Manuel Perez would like to ask the Board to officially support this project directing the Executive Office to forward the attached letter.

If funded, the award would advance the project closer to construction and implementation of daily intercity rail service between Los Angeles and the Coachella Valley. With the Service Development Plan (SDP) and National Environmental Policy Act/California Environmental Quality Act (NEPA/CEQA) Tier I environmental clearance for the corridor expected to be approved in early 2022, the NEPA/CEQA Tier II environmental study estimated at \$60,000,000 is the next step toward fulfilling the transformative vision in partnership with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

As a joint project between CalTrans and Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), the local implementing agency, the project will provide for the following:

- Preliminary engineering along the 76-mile eastern section of track to the 30% level; and
- Project-level environmental clearance for up to six stations, a new third main track, and associated grade crossing and signal improvements on the eastern section of the corridor.

The State of California and RCTC have a vested interest in fostering equitable investments in transportation infrastructure and transit mobility, as well as in sustainable freight and goods movement, and are committed to matching funds for this game-changing economic opportunity with environmental benefit from Los Angeles to Coachella Valley and disadvantaged communities along the route.

ATTACHMENTS (if any, in this order):

Letter to Mr. Amit Bose
Acting Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

October 13, 2021

U.S. Economic Development Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Suite 71014
Washington, DC 20230

Subject: Inland Empire Application to the EDA Build Back Better Regional Challenge, submitted on behalf of Inland Economic Growth & Opportunity (IEGO)

To whom it may concern:

The County of Riverside has reviewed the USED A Build Back Better Regional Challenge application and is committed to supporting several components that will advance the regional growth cluster. As a core member on both the IEGO Coordinating Council and Executive Committee, the County is prepared to play a supporting role in a number of the proposed projects and mobilize key local government decision makers to enact policies that support industry growth and healthy communities.

Riverside is the fourth largest county in California and the tenth largest in the United States. It is a one-of-a-kind mixture of diverse communities, scenic beauty, thriving businesses and economic strength. Combined with our county neighbor, San Bernardino, the Inland Empire region is focusing on the creation of more middle-skill, middle-income and high-skill jobs off its supply chain cluster strengths, bringing forward innovation and entrepreneurial activity while preparing its workforce to move up the value chain through training, credentialing, and education. As one major opportunity that has come is the new home of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) in Riverside. CARB is the world's largest air emissions regulator, bringing with it companies and entrepreneurs. The IE offers a living laboratory, strong industry presence, research and innovation in our colleges and universities, and a younger and far more diverse population that aspires to higher quality jobs.

In 2020, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the County of Riverside formed an Economic Recovery Task Force to develop recommendations for a safe and equitable recovery. The resulting Strategic Economic Recovery Framework includes several recommended investments in small business, workforce, and industry that are critical to IEGO's cluster strategy, specifically calling out Clean Energy Technology, Logistics, and Robotics and Artificial Intelligence.

**U.S. Economic Development Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
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Riverside County has been an integral part of the IEGO collaboration since its inception several years ago. The County has been involved in developing the goals and objectives of its strategies for the advancement of this region as a clean technology and sustainable logistics center. These strategies aim to address the challenges and opportunities of supply chains not only in this region but the entire nation.

We are excited about this grant opportunity and look forward to this collaborative effort.

Sincerely,

Karen S. Spiegel

Karen Spiegel, Chair
Riverside County Board of Supervisors