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# California State Senate

SENATOR  
**PATRICIA WIGGINS**  
SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



STANDING COMMITTEES:  
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CHAIR

**TAB 14**

October 8, 2009

Mr. Bob Alvarado, Chair  
California Transportation Commission  
1120 N Street, Room 2221 (MS-52)  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attn: Construction STIP Allocation – Vallejo Ferry Parking Structure

Dear Commissioners:

I write to respectfully express my concerns with the recently proposed 2009-10 STIP Allocation Plan that is scheduled to be reviewed by the California Transportation Commission on Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. Adoption on this plan would jeopardize many shovel-ready projects that support our short- and long-term transportation needs and goals as well as hundreds of jobs.

Of particular concern, is the \$13.1 million in State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds programmed for the Vallejo Station project. Vallejo Station is a compact, transit oriented mixed-use project in the downtown of the City of Vallejo. The project includes two major elements – a bus transfer facility that will consolidate local, regional and commuter bus services and a 1200 space joint use parking garage that will service the patrons of the Vallejo Baylink ferry.

Vallejo Station is a major component to reducing traffic congestion on Interstate 80. The Vallejo Baylink ferry currently takes 800 cars per day off of the heavily congested I-80 corridor. In fact, during the last three fiscal years, the three Vallejo Baylink ferries carried nearly 900,000 passengers. Plans are in place to add a forth ferry boat to accommodate the forecasted increased ridership, but unfortunately, the current parking facilities will not accommodate ridership demand.

The allocation of \$13.1 million of STIP funds will leverage nearly \$30 million in programmed funding dedicated to this project. Changing the priority for projects, especially those that are ready for construction, will not only delay the project unnecessarily for another 9 to 12 months, but will jeopardize other leveraged funds which could then delay the project even longer. After many years of planning, this project is ready for construction but the proposed 2009-10 STIP Allocation Plan threatens this project from moving forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. If you have any questions or need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Wiggins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

PATRICIA WIGGINS  
Senator, 2<sup>nd</sup> District

PW:sm

Cc: Honorable Osby Davis, Mayor, City of Vallejo  
Honorable Jim Spering, Chair, Solano Transportation Authority  
Mr. Gary Leach, City of Vallejo  
Mr. Darryl Halls, Executive Director, STA