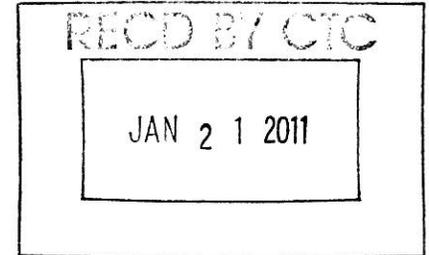


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Assembly  
California Legislature

LUIS A. ALEJO  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT

Tab 25



January 18, 2011

James Earp, Chairman  
California Transportation Commission  
1120 N Street, Room 2221 (MS-52)  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's Allocation Request for Proposition 116 and PTA Funds for Acquisition of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (Item 2.6d, January 19, 2011, agenda)**

Dear Chairman Earp and Members of the California Transportation Commission,

I would like to convey my strong support for the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's (SCCRTC) allocation request for Proposition 116 and Public Transportation Account funds for acquisition of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line.

The funding will preserve a 32-mile rail corridor, implement recreational rail service between Santa Cruz and Davenport, and continue existing freight rail service. A later phase of commission's plan will invest over \$5 million to improve bridges and other railroad infrastructure. This corridor provides access to Santa Cruz County's community attractions including parks, beaches, schools, downtown areas, and community centers and residential areas.

I applaud the hard work of the SCCRTC in conducting the fullest range of due diligence and analysis for this rail road property including two title reviews, three appraisals, various inspections, and business plans. The SCCRTC has secured a purchase price of \$14.2 million, which is a fraction of Union Pacific's original asking price, with appraisals that account for title issues and all other impacts to property value. The SCCRTC has also negotiated agreements that ensure protection of the entire corridor even if freight service becomes infeasible in the future.

I urge you to approve the funding for this tremendously important project to the Santa Cruz County community, which has extensive support from all elements of the community. This project will have a positive impact on the region's economy, transportation system and environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Alejo', written in a cursive style.

LUIS A. ALEJO  
Assemblymember  
28<sup>th</sup> District

cc: George Dondero, SCCRTC Executive Director

Meetings  
Handout