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January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018

California Transportation Commission Susan Bransen, Executive Director 1120 N Street, MS-52 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for 2018 Local Partnership Program Application – Hesperia's Ranchero Road Widening Project

Dear Executive Director Bransen:

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the City of Hesperia's application for \$3.9 million in Local Partnership Program funding for the Ranchero Road Widening Project. The proposed improvements to Ranchero Road will benefit the residents of Hesperia, surrounding communities and all motorists traveling on Interstate 15 (I-15) and utilizing Ranchero Road as an east-west corridor.

The Widening Project is the final phase of the Ranchero Road Corridor Project which consists of a new Interchange at Ranchero Road and I-15 and an Underpass at Ranchero Road and the BNSF Railway tracks. I-15 remains the primary transportation connection between San Diego and Los Angeles, and the Victor Valley, Las Vegas, Salt Lake City and points beyond. Upon completion, the Ranchero Road Widening Project, which has been identified as a project of regional significance, will address an absolute transportation deficiency for east-west mobility and access to and from I-15 within the Victor Valley region. This project will further facilitate freight movement, improve air quality and improve safety response times for emergency vehicles.

These funds are critical to building the multimodal transportation infrastructure needed to unlock the potential of this east-west corridor. The LPP award will complete the funding needed for construction of this five-mile segment of Ranchero Road from two to four lanes between I-15 and Seventh Avenue to include curb-to-curb street improvements for vehicular traffic together with pedestrian and cyclist improvements, aqueduct bridge reconstruction, at-grade railroad crossing, drainage improvements, utility relocations and traffic signal installations.

I believe strongly that this LPP grant application has the potential to remedy many local and regional transportation issues, provide improvements, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions that will benefit the public health and environment. The proposal will encourage more efficient

travel to population centers, promoting the potential for enhanced economic benefits to the region and to families who rely upon Ranchero Road as a link to I-15.

I am proud to endorse and support the City of Hesperia's efforts to pursue funding for the LPP project. As the City and region continues to experience rapid growth, it is more important than ever that infrastructure be updated to meet the growing needs of my constituents. I respectfully ask that you give serious consideration to this worthwhile project.

Sincerely,

Jay Obernolte

sembly Member, 33<sup>rd</sup> District