



July 13, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support Madera Region SR 99 Widening Project

Dear Secretary Chao,

On behalf of the Greater Madera County Industrial Association (GMCIA) I am writing to express strong support for the Madera County Transportation Commission's regionally significant project currently under consideration for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program.

GMCIA recognizes that the San Joaquin Valley is a key contributor to agricultural goods and products to the nation. This project provides a major goods movement section for SR 99 through the City of Madera. It will improve the flow of goods and services for the region and the State and provide the catalyst for regional and local generation of jobs.

MCEDC fully supports the Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC) BUILD grant application for the California State Route 99 – Avenue 12 to Avenue 17 in Madera County – widen from 4-6 lanes project. Federal funding for this project will assist in enhancing a vital passenger and freight traffic corridor through California.

State Road 99 (SR 99) serves as the backbone of the Central Valley's agriculture economy. Identified in the California Freight Plan, this project will strengthen major goods and people movement section of SR 99 through the City of Madera. This project will reduce the transit time for perishable commodities being shipped from farms to markets throughout the United States and around the world. Renewed investment in this critical route will improve safety, reduce congestion, and allow for future development along the corridor leading to job creation in an area faced with continued high unemployment.

Due to the foregoing reasons we support the full funding of this application. If you have any questions I can be reached at 559-675-7768.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Flores".

Ron Flores  
President

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**[www.maderaindustry.org](http://www.maderaindustry.org)**