



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 Madera County Economic Development Commission (MCEDC) 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.

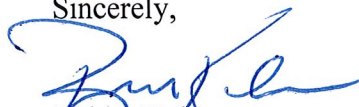
The mission of MCEDC is to position Madera County as an economically viable and vibrant county through a multifaceted and diversified economic base. "The Perfect Location" and the right choice for business and quality of life.

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,



Bobby Kahn
Executive Director

"Madera County, The Perfect Location"

