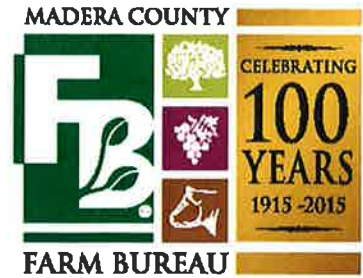


## Madera County Farm Bureau

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July 2, 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 Madera County Farm Bureau (MCFB), 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.

MCFB is a unified voice in agriculture working to enhance and strengthen the lives of rural Americans to build strong, prosperous agricultural communities. MCFB is a member based non-profit organization that works to protect family farms and ranches on behalf of more than 1,200 members in Madera County and is part of a nationwide network of more than 5.5 million Farm Bureau members.

MCFB fully supports the Madera County Transportation Commission's BUILD grant application for the California State Route 99 – Avenue 12 to Avenue 17 in Madera County – widening project. Significant state and local funds have already been secured for this project, and additional federal funding 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 a 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 [cbeckstead@maderafb.com](mailto:cbeckstead@maderafb.com) or (559)674-8871.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Christina Beckstead', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Christina Beckstead  
Executive Director  
Madera County Farm Bureau