

RESOLUTION No. 13-042

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT TO ESTABLISH DAILY INTERCITY RAIL SERVICE FROM
LOS ANGELES TO THE COACHELLA VALLEY VIA THE PASS AREA**

WHEREAS new regional intercity passenger rail service to the Coachella Valley will ease congestion on local roads and freeways, providing new economic opportunity, improving mobility and the quality of life in the Inland Empire; and

WHEREAS Amtrak currently runs the Sunset Limited train three days a week with service between Los Angeles and Coachella Valley in Riverside County at inconvenient schedules; and

WHEREAS there are limited public transit options exist between Coachella Valley and Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS the need for daily convenient intercity passenger rail service is growing as an environmental friendly alternate to the I-10 freeway; and

WHEREAS the Coachella Valley and the Pass Area are experiencing rapid population growth and demand on this route will continue to increase; and

WHEREAS there is strong local support to establish new intercity rail passenger service in the Coachella Valley and the Pass Area; and

WHEREAS Coachella Valley Association of Governments approved establishing a dedicated source of initial funding for the project; and

WHEREAS Caltrans Division of Rail included the Coachella Rail service as a proposed corridor in the latest revision of the State Rail Plan; and

WHEREAS Caltrans Division of Rail completed a Planning Study, which serves as the alternatives analysis which demonstrates significant justification for the project including ridership potential and populations served; and

WHEREAS the development of a full Service Development Plan and initial Environmental Documents in coordination with Caltrans Division of Rail and the Federal Railroad Administration is the next step in making the project eligible for federal transportation funds; and


WHEREAS new service to the Coachella Valley could use the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) route between Los Angeles and Colton, the Union Pacific route from Colton to Indio, and LA Metro owned tracks into LA Union station; and

WHEREAS the implementation of this service will require the cooperation of Union Pacific, BNSF and LA Metro to operate the trains over the host railroads; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Riverside County Transportation Commission does hereby support the establishment of Daily Intercity Rail Service from Los Angeles to the Coachella Valley via the Pass Area; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Riverside County Transportation Commission will actively oversee the completion of the Service Development Plan to directly facilitate progress towards daily rail service.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 9th day of October, 2013.



Karen S. Spiegel, Chair
Riverside County Transportation Commission

ATTEST:



Jennifer Harmon, Clerk of the Board
Riverside County Transportation Commission