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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 15, 2024

The Honorable Tanisha Taylor
Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, MS 52
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Executive Director Taylor:

I write to express my support for the Orange County Transportation Authority's (OCTA) request for funding through the California Transportation Commission's Senate Bill (SB) 1 Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP) funding for the Coastal Rail Infrastructure Resiliency Project (Project) in south Orange County. This project will improve track stability and system efficiency for the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor.

The 351-mile LOSSAN Rail Corridor travels through a six-county coastal region in Southern California and is the second busiest intercity passenger rail corridor in the United States and the busiest state-supported Amtrak route. As defined by the Department of Defense, the rail line between Los Angeles and San Diego is designated as part of the Strategic Rail Corridor Network, which consists of key railroad lines most important to national defense.

Over the past two and a half years, climate-induced storm surges, sea-level rise, and coastal erosion have caused extensive railroad track movement and slope instability along a seven mile stretch of the LOSSAN Rail Corridor right-of-way in south Orange County. This instability has caused repeated delays and suspensions of passenger and freight rail services between the counties of Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Diego. At this time, the repeated delays and suspensions have culminated in twelve months of closures. This unreliability is causing great harm to Orange County's businesses, workers, commuters, residents, and visitors who depend on the LOSSAN Rail Corridor.

Building on prior emergency work, OCTA has identified solutions to maintain the rail corridor in its current alignment and protect the corridor from sea level rise and coastal erosion. OCTA's solutions will permit the continuation of passenger and freight services and avoid emergency track closures and service disruptions in the future. The Project will construct resiliency and

safety measures at four at-risk locations in the City of San Clemente to stabilize the track currently threatened by wave action and by landslides from adjacent steep cliffs.

I look forward to seeing the benefits TCEP will bring to Orange County and the Southern California rail network should OCTA's Coastal Rail Infrastructure Resiliency Project be selected for funding. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my District Office at (949) 668-6600.

Very truly yours,



Katie Porter
Member of Congress