



Regional  
**OpenSpace**

| Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

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Stephen E. Abbors

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The Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project Full Funding Grant Agreement - SUPPORT**

Dear Secretary Chao,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the **Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen)**, I am writing to express our strong support for Caltrain’s Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project (PCEP) and the Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) pending approval from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Comprised of over 62,000 acres of acquired open space, Midpen is one of the largest regional open space districts in California. Our mission is to acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land in perpetuity, protect and restore the natural environment, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education

Caltrain serves more than 65,000 daily passengers and links the major economic centers on the Silicon Valley Corridor. Over the past decade, Caltrain’s ridership has more than doubled and demand continues to grow. The PCEP will transform Caltrain from an aging diesel-based service to a modernized rail system featuring high-performance electric commuter rail trains that enhance capacity and allow the system to deliver cleaner, quieter, faster, more frequent service to the region. With an electrified system between San Francisco and San Jose that enables faster acceleration and more frequent service, Caltrain will be able to increase capacity and serve more riders at more stations.

Through the lens of our mission, Midpen sees Caltrain electrification also as an opportunity to preserve our vital parks and open space lands. The increased capacity and service frequency of an electrified rail system, enabled through the PCEP, helps to focus the creation of new housing and infrastructure around a modern transit system. This reduces pressure to sprawl into surrounding natural and agricultural lands.

We offer our full support to the PCEP and strongly encourage you to help our region continue to grow sustainably, create jobs, and fuel the national economy by investing in this critical transportation improvement.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephen E. Abbors  
General Manager

cc: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors