



CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Date: June 1, 2011

CONSENT CALENDAR

Subject: SUPPORT OF DAILY SUNSET LIMITED PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE

From: David H. Ready, City Manager

Initiated by: Public Works and Engineering Department

SUMMARY

On March 28, 2011, the CVAG Executive Committee adopted a Resolution supporting daily Sunset Limited passenger rail service. It is necessary for the Council to concur and adopt the Resolution adopted by CVAG.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) Approve and support CVAG Resolution No. 11-003, a Resolution In Support of Amtrak's Sunset Limited Plan to provide Daily Intercity Rail Service from Los Angeles, California, to San Antonio, Texas, via the Coachella Valley; and
- 2) Authorize the Mayor to execute all necessary documents.

STAFF ANALYSIS:

At their meeting in October 2010 the Executive Committee accepted the 2010 Update to the Coachella Valley Passenger Rail Study. The update was undertaken with substantial input from the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC). At that meeting the Executive Committee approved the following CVAG staff recommendations:

- A. Encourage Establishment of Daily Intercity Rail Service by Amtrak as the Intermediate Goal of bringing Passenger Rail Service into the Coachella Valley, and;
- B. Encourage Amtrak to operate a Daily Sunset Limited passenger service on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe tracks from Los Angeles, through Fullerton, to Colton.

At their February 2011 meeting the RCTC staff presented a report on rail matters that affect the RCTC service area, including the Coachella Valley. Among the actions recommended by RCTC was the adoption of a Resolution in support of Amtrak's Sunset Limited Plan to provide daily intercity rail service from Los Angeles to San Antonio, via the Coachella Valley.

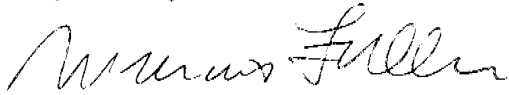
In support of these efforts, and in keeping with the CVAG Executive Committee's action, attached is CVAG Resolution 11-003 adopted by CVAG in support of Amtrak's Sunset Limited Plan to provide daily intercity rail service from Los Angeles, California, to San Antonio, Texas, via the Coachella Valley.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

SUBMITTED:

Prepared by:



Marcus L. Fuller
Assistant Director of Public Works

Recommended by:

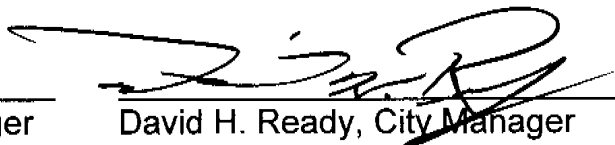


David J. Barakian
Director of Public Works/City Engineer

Approved by:



Thomas J. Wilson, Asst. City Manager



David H. Ready, City Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution



Resolution No. 11-003

Resolution In Support of Amtrak's Sunset Limited Plan to provide Daily Intercity Rail Service from Los Angeles, California, to San Antonio, Texas, via the Coachella Valley

WHEREAS, Amtrak currently operates the Sunset Limited intercity passenger train three days a week with service between Los Angeles and the Coachella Valley in Riverside County; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak has developed a Performance Improvement Plan that will increase the service frequency to occur daily in the Coachella Valley and will reroute the Sunset Limited to provide new service via Riverside and Fullerton; and

WHEREAS, there is strong local support to expand existing and establish new intercity rail passenger service in the Coachella Valley and the Banning Pass area; and

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

WHEREAS, no other public transit options exist between the Coachella Valley and Los Angeles; and

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

WHEREAS, both expanded daily service or new service to the Coachella Valley would use the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) route between Los Angeles and Colton, and the Union Pacific route from Colton to Indio; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of this service will require the cooperation of both the Union Pacific and BNSF railroads to operate trains over the host railroad rights of way; and

WHEREAS, the Riverside County Transportation Commission has some limited contractual rights with the railroads that it will use to support the expanded service.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Coachella Valley Association of Governments does hereby endorse and support Amtrak's Performance Improvement Plan to establish daily Sunset Limited intercity rail service between Los Angeles, California, and San Antonio, Texas, via the Coachella Valley.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Resolution Number 11-003 to be executed by their duly authorized representatives on this date: _____, 2011.

ATTEST:

CITY OF BLYTHE

By: _____
David Lane
City Manager

By: _____
Joseph De Coninck
Mayor

ATTEST:

CITY OF CATHEDRAL CITY

By: _____
Donald Bradley
City Manager

By: _____
Kathleen De Rosa
Mayor

ATTEST:

CITY OF COACHELLA

By: _____
David Garcia
City Manager

By: _____
Eduardo Garcia
Mayor

ATTEST:

DESERT HOT SPRINGS

By: _____
Rick Daniels
City Manager

By: _____
Yvonne Parks
Mayor

ATTEST:

CITY OF INDIAN WELLS

By: _____
Greg Johnson
City Manager

By: _____
Patrick Mullany
Mayor

ATTEST:

CITY OF INDIO

By: _____
Dan Martinez
City Manager

By: _____
Lupe Ramos Watson
Mayor

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA QUINTA

By: _____
Tom Genovese
City Manager

By: _____
Don Adolph
Mayor

ATTEST:

CITY OF PALM DESERT

By: _____
John Wohlmuth
City Manager

By: _____
Jean Benson
Mayor

ATTEST:

CITY OF PALM SPRINGS

By: _____
David Ready
City Manager

By: _____
Stephen Pougnet
Mayor

ATTEST:

CITY OF RANCHO MIRAGE

By: _____
Patrick Pratt
City Manager

By: _____
Richard W. Kite
Mayor

ATTEST:

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

By: _____
Clerk to the Board

By: _____
Bob Buster
Board Chairman