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February 14, 2019

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

RE: Interstate 15/French Valley Parkway– Phase II

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to reiterate my strong support for the Interstate 15/French Valley project, and the phases necessary to secure funding and complete the project. The 2019 City of Temecula application to the U. S. Dept. of Transportation's Infrastructure For Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program, *Interstate 15/French Valley Parkway– Phase II*, has been narrowed from its 2017 application to request significantly less INFRA Program funds – $50 million instead of $120 million – in order to be more competitive. **I strongly urge your support to help fund this critical and nationally significant infrastructure project.**

Specifically, Interstate 15/French Valley Parkway–Phase II will relieve congestion in the Nation's fourth worst congestion hotspot in terms of economic cost according to INRIX Research.[1] INFRA grant funding will help correct the specific bottleneck point on Interstate 15 at the 215 Junction that causes daily congestion backing up northbound traffic between the I-15/215 Junction in Riverside County and San Diego County. At times, traffic can back up for over 20 miles along Interstate 15 at the 215 Junction to Gopher Canyon Road. This is an essential corridor for tourism, freight, commerce, trade, and commuter traffic. It is the direct connection from San Diego County to Nevada, Utah and beyond.

I urge your support for funding assistance to correct this traffic crisis, and I appreciate your consideration. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter, please feel free to contact my staff at 202-225-1986 or the Applicant: City of Temecula, Patrick Thomas, Director of Public Works at Patrick.Thomas@TemeculaCA.gov 951-506-5163. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Ken Calvert

KEN CALVERT
Member of Congress

[1] Traffic Hotspot Study, *INRIX Research*, 2017, available at http://www2.inrix.com/us-traffic-hotspot-study-2017.