



Tri-Valley & San Joaquin Valley
REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Veronica Vargas Appointed to Cal Cities Transportation, Communications and Public Works Policy Committee

LIVERMORE, CA, October 13, 2021 – Veronica Vargas, Tracy Mayor Pro Tem and Chair of the Tri-Valley—San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority (Valley Link) has been appointed as Chair of the California League of Cities (Cal Cities) Transportation, Communications and Public Works (TCPW) Policy Committee for 2022.

“The Cal Cities Board of Directors relies heavily on the work of the policy committees. Your leadership on the committee will contribute to the success of the Cal Cities policy development process and to Cal Cities advocacy efforts,” said Melanie Perron, Cal Cities Deputy Executive Director of Advocacy and Public Affairs in the appointment letter.

Policy committee chairs serve for a one-year term, ending at the conclusion of the 2022 Annual Conference. The TCPW Policy Committee reviews issues related to transportation planning, technology, funding, construction, public works, telecommunications, and other related areas – advocating for the interests of local jurisdictions throughout California. It works with regional field staff and lawmakers to sponsor, draft and support legislative and regulatory measures that promote local decision-making.

Michael Tree, Valley Link Executive Director said, “It is truly an honor to have our agency’s Chair in this leadership role. It will be to the benefit of all local jurisdictions and communities throughout the state but in particular supports a key goal of the Valley Link Project – to be responsive to the goals and objectives of the communities it will serve.”

Said Vargas, “I’m excited to have the opportunity to serve as Chair of this formidable committee in the year ahead. It clearly offers a chance to engage in meaningful and impactful advocacy for the benefit of our state’s 482 cities and towns – and also support the goals of transformative transportation projects like Valley Link that respond to the vital needs and interest of our communities.

Valley Link is a passenger rail project that will serve the more than 98,500 Bay Area workers that now commute daily through the Altamont Pass – spending an average of 78 minutes each way as they travel from affordable housing in San Joaquin County to prevailing wage jobs throughout the Bay Area. It will

connect to the BART rapid transit system in the Tri-Valley – linking nearly 500 miles of commuter and intercity rail with more than 130 stations throughout the Northern California Megaregion. The project will meet an urgent need to connect housing and people to high paying, prevailing wage jobs throughout the Bay Area. The project’s 74 daily round trips will serve an estimated 33,000 daily riders in 2040 – a reduction of 141 million vehicle miles traveled per year and up to 42,650 metric tons of GHG emissions. It will equitably serve communities and households with some of the state’s highest poverty rates – and provide a vital near-term link to the state’s emerging high-speed rail system and expansive Bay Area rail network.

Additional information on the Tri-Valley – San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority, is available on the Regional Rail Authority’s website at www.valleylinkrail.com.

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