

# The County of Yuba

## County Administrator

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Kevin Mallen, County Administrator  
**BY:** Jamme Yang, Management Analyst  
**SUBJECT:** County Administrator: Approve letter of support for BCAG's application for the North Valley Passenger Rail Extension to Butte County project. (Five minute estimate)  
**DATE:** April 27, 2021  
**NUMBER:** 205/2021

### *Recommendation*

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve a letter of support for Butte County Association of Governments' (BCAG) application for the North Valley Passenger Rail Extension to Butte County project.

### *Background & Discussion*

The North Valley Rail Vision is a planning concept developed by BCAG to establish daily passenger rail service to Butte County and northern California, in addition to other complementary transportation services. Extending passenger rail to the North State fulfills the California State Transportation Agency (CALSTA) Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI) goals by building towards an integrated, statewide rail and transit network and Executive Order N-79-20 by investing in clean transportation options in urban, suburban, and rural northern California communities.

In cooperation with Caltrans, the San Joaquin Joint Powers Agency (SJJPA), Union Pacific (UP), and Yuba, Sutter, and Sacramento Counties, BCAG will implement the North Valley Rail Vision through two studies that identify the needed improvements and costs for connecting Butte County to the state's passenger rail services, including high-speed rail. The Chico to Sacramento Inter-City Transit Strategic Plan is the first study. For the second study, BCAG submitted a grant application as part of the FY 2021-22 Caltrans Strategic Partnership Transit Program to fund a study to identify the needed improvements and costs for extending the San Joaquin's daily passenger rail service from Natomas to Butte County. This study will look at two alternate routes for extending rail service, and will identify the specific track improvements, rail depot improvements, and other needed amenities such as electric charging, parking, maintenance facilities, connections to regional transit and the thruway bus service. The grant amount requested is \$500,000 (project total is roughly \$600,000 with match) and is scheduled for award this summer. The project initiation is expected by early 2022 with completion in December 2023.

The extension of daily passenger rail, commuter bus service, and other benefits outlined in the North Valley Rail Vision improves geographic equity by providing connectivity not only to Butte County, but also the sixteen counties that comprise the North State Super Region (combined total population of 1,058,395), to future passenger rail, high-speed rail, and commuter bus services. With Butte County serving as the next northern terminus for future daily passenger rail service, rural north state residents have improved access for commuting and travel to urbanized areas, including Sacramento, the Bay Area, the San Joaquin Valley and Reno. This connectivity also integrates the disadvantaged and low-income communities within the cities of Chico, Oroville and Maysville/Yuba City to other urban centers in the state.

*Committee Action:*

None. This request is brought directly to the full Board of Supervisors for consideration.

*Fiscal Impact:*

General Fund Impact:	No impact
Non-General Fund Impact:	No impact
Other Impact:	Unknown at this time

*Attachments*

205/2021 BCAG Project Support Letter