

March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The Honorable Administrator Michael S. Regan  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Subject: Letter of Commitment for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Application – Implement the VTA Visionary Transit Network

Dear Administrator Michael S. Regan,

The San Benito County Local Transit Authority (LTA) is committed to working with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) to help implement the Visionary Transit Network in Santa Clara and San Benito Counties.

VTA's CPRG application requests funding for LTA to establish a shuttle bus connecting the City of Hollister in San Benito County to key employment centers in the City of San Jose in Santa Clara County. This measure supports VTA's Visionary Transit Network by improving transit connectivity to popular destinations and multimodal facilities and by promoting mode shifts away from single-occupancy vehicle (SOV) trips. Our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction calculations estimate this measure to eliminate 497 carbon dioxide equivalent metric tons (CO<sub>2</sub>-e MT) for the one year of requested funding. In addition, this measure will address historic transportation inequities and mobility gaps in San Benito County by expanding affordable travel options, enhancing multimodal connectivity, and improving access to opportunities.

Our commitment to VTA for the CPRG application includes the following responsibilities:

- Implementing and operating the new shuttle bus service;
- Maintaining the shuttle buses; and
- Supporting VTA with grant administration and reporting requirements.

This measure has been informed by local community engagement and planning activities. LTA's 2016 Short and Long-Range Transit Plan revealed a strong desire amongst commuters for improved transit connectivity between San Benito and Santa Clara Counties. The pressure for improved inter-county connectivity has increased over time as the population in San Benito County continues to grow. In addition, this measure aligns with goals in San Benito County's General Plan, including promoting a safe and efficient public transit system (C-3) and encouraging alternative transportation modes to reduce SOV trips (C-4). For these reasons, LTA is fully committed to VTA's CRPG grant application, which, if awarded, will implement measures that reduce GHG emissions and environmental impacts and foster a more resilient and equitable transportation network.

Sincerely,

*Binu Abraham*

Binu Abraham

Executive Director, Council of San Benito County Governments