



## **AB: 758: Tri-Valley-San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority**

### **SUMMARY**

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This bill establishes the Tri-Valley-San Joaquin Regional Rail Authority for the purpose of creating an interregional rail connection between the San Joaquin Valley and the Tri-Valley.

### **BACKGROUND**

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Existing law provides for the creation of statewide and local transportation agencies, which may be established as joint powers authorities or established expressly by statute. Joint Power Agreements have proved effective for delivering transit extension, because they are singularly focused and can be more efficient and responsive than transit agencies.

The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) was created by a joint powers agreement in 1985 to provide area-wide transit services to the cities of Dublin, Livermore, and Pleasanton, as well as to unincorporated areas of Alameda County.

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission, as part of their 2007 Regional Rail Plan, recommended that the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) connect with the Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) in Livermore. Expanded rail connectivity between the San Joaquin Valley and the Bay Area would increase interregional mobility while relieving pressure on Interstate 580 and other transportation systems. Estimates project traffic to on this corridor by up to 60% between 2013 and 2040.

In fact, the Department of Finance projects that San Joaquin County, along with other counties in the San Joaquin Valley,

will be among the fastest growing counties in the state.

Due to rapid population growth in the San Joaquin Valley, increasing high housing costs and strong job growth in the Bay Area, as well as a need to decrease ozone pollutants, in 2015 LAVTA created the Altamont Regional Rail Working Group, which was tasked with potential BART and ACE Rail linkages to better connect the Bay Area-San Joaquin Valley megaregion.

### **THIS BILL**

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This bill will establish the Tri-Valley-San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority. The authority's governing board will be composed of 14 representatives and will be tasked with addressing regional economic and transportation challenges by planning and delivering a cost effective and responsive rail extension that connects the San Joaquin Valley to the Bay Area Rapid Transit District's rapid transit system and the Altamont Corridor Express in the Tri-Valley.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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