

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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JUL 30 2008

Santa Barbara County
Association of Governments

July 28, 2008

The Honorable Brooks Firestone
Third District County Supervisor
Chair
Santa Barbara County Association of Governments
260 North San Antonio Road, Suite B
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Dear Mr. Firestone:

Thank you for your letter regarding possible changes to the existing Amtrak Pacific Surfliner trains to address the need for earlier morning and later afternoon rail service between Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. I agree we need to work quickly to identify feasible options that will provide a modal alternative to congested U.S. Highway 101 in your area.

We have an agreement with Jim Kemp, Executive Director, Santa Barbara County Association of Governments, to quickly establish a working group among partner agencies to resolve issues outlined in your letter and to develop new or revised train schedules to bring to decision makers. We are prepared to fully participate in the working group and hope that an initial meeting can be scheduled within 30 days. We are also working with other Southern California agencies to develop and bring forward for discussion an alternative to rescheduling Train Nos. 798 and 799.

We look forward to working with the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments to expedite the implementation of improved rail service between Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. Please feel free to contact Lam Nguyen, Acting Chief, Division of Rail, at (916) 654-3797, with any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Will Kempton in black ink.

WILL KEMPTON
Director

c: Lam Nguyen, Acting Chief, Division of Rail