

September 30, 2022



9300 Valley Children's Place
Madera, CA 93636

(559) 353-3000
valleychildrens.org

Chair Lee Ann Eager
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, MS 52
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: State Route 99/Caldwell Ave Interchange LPP Grant Application

Dear Chair Eager,

Valley Children's Healthcare would like to express its strong support for the \$15 million competitive Local Partnership Program (LPP) grant request for the SR99/Caldwell Ave project submitted by the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG), in partnership with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

State Route 99 is the backbone corridor used by both trucks and commuters between communities and rural areas throughout the San Joaquin Valley. It is also the primary goods movement corridor, along with I-5, that connects the San Joaquin Valley with the Sacramento, Bay Area and Los Angeles metro areas.

This project will reconstruct an existing interchange at SR99 and Caldwell Avenue to improve safety, traffic flow and multi-modal connections to support vital regional services such as healthcare and economic development and employment opportunities for underserved disadvantaged communities in the area. The project will leverage the LPP funding with 70% (\$35.4 million) of the total construction cost (\$50.4 million) coming from federal, state and local sources.

Valley Children's experiences over 50,000 inpatient and outpatient visits annually from children and families in Tulare County with services provided at a number of locations, including our main campus in Madera, our outpatient Akers Specialty Care Center in Visalia, and through our partnerships with local hospitals. SR99 serves as a critical connecting point between children and their families in Tulare County and Valley Children's and we are pleased to support this funding request.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim Curley
Director of Community and Government Relations