

1 [Supporting the Caltrain Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project]

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3 **Resolution supporting the Caltrain Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project, and**
4 **urging the Federal Transportation Administration to approve the full funding grant**
5 **agreement for the project.**

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7 WHEREAS, Caltrain serves the third most congested area in the nation and
8 serves 65,000 daily riders providing a much needed alternative to the heavily congested
9 freeways; and

10 WHEREAS, Dramatic ridership increase has strained the system, with many peak hour
11 trains operating over maximum capacity with a fleet that is over 30 years old and needs
12 replacing; and

13 WHEREAS, The Caltrain corridor is arguably the most economically productive area in
14 the State and the communities served by the 51-mile railroad are responsible for 14% of the
15 State's GDP, 20% of California's tax revenue and are the birthplace of over half of California
16 patents; and

17 WHEREAS, The region cannot continue to thrive and keep this innovation without
18 equipping the 150-year-old rail corridor with a modernized transit system capable of
19 accommodating current and future ridership demand; and

20 WHEREAS, After several decades of planning, Caltrain is poised to implement
21 the \$1.9 billion Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project and become a modern, electric
22 commuter rail which will increase capacity, improve train performance, and offer cleaner,
23 quieter service; and

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1 WHEREAS, An electrified system will improve performance and increase ridership, will
2 provide substantial environmental benefits by eliminating over 176,000 metric tons of CO2,
3 and removing 619,000 daily vehicle miles from the region’s congested roadways; and

4 WHEREAS, Over \$1.3 billion in local, regional, state, and federal non-Core Capacity
5 funds have been secured for the project, contracts were awarded in September 2016 and
6 design is underway; and

7 WHEREAS, The project now awaits the final funding component to start construction,
8 a \$647 million grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Core Capacity Program—a
9 program designed to make investments in existing transit system projects that expand
10 capacity and accommodate growing ridership; and

11 WHEREAS, Since 2001, Caltrain has worked with the FTA to ensure it meets all
12 rigorous statutory and regulatory requirements and the project received a high rating after
13 thorough evaluation, including ridership studies, design assessments, financial analyses, and
14 cost benefit evaluations; and

15 WHEREAS, On February 17, 2017, Caltrain completed the last step in the FTA Core
16 Capacity process (completion of the mandatory 30-day Congressional review period) and was
17 eligible for the final signature to be executed; and

18 WHEREAS, FTA then announced that execution of the Core Capacity grant would be
19 delayed until the determination of whether the project would be included in the President’s
20 budget proposal; and

21 WHEREAS, In response, Caltrain negotiated a four-month contract extension with the
22 infrastructure and train builders while awaiting a decision from the FTA about the execution of
23 the funding agreement; and

24 WHEREAS, The PCEP will generate over 9,600 jobs, 1,300 of which will be outside
25 California—in Florida, Wisconsin, Colorado, Virginia and in Utah, where the project is the

1 driving force for the construction of a rail car manufacturing facility that will provide for 550
2 permanent jobs; and

3 WHEREAS, The PCEP has widespread bi-partisan support from a growing coalition of
4 federal, state, regional, and local stakeholders committed to creating jobs, investing in aging
5 infrastructure addressing congestion between San Francisco and San Jose; now, therefore be
6 it

7 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby expresses support
8 and commitment to the Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby strongly
10 urges the FTA to approve the Full Funding Grant Agreement for the Peninsula Corridor
11 Electrification Project; and, be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, strongly urges
13 local, regional and state leaders, together with the California congressional delegation, and
14 federal lobbyists to continue to express support for the project at all possible opportunities.

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