



## Board Report

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File #: 2022-0338, File Type: Agreement

Agenda Number: 7.

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**PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE  
AUGUST 17, 2022**

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
AUGUST 18, 2022**

**SUBJECT: HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS AGENCY**

**ACTION: APPROVE RECOMMENDATION**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

APPROVE Metro participation in the Joint Powers Agreement creating the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency.

### **ISSUE**

On March 1, 2022, San Bernardino County voted to withdraw its membership in the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority (HDC JPA), resulting in the HDC JPA being dissolved effective June 30, 2022. A new High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency (Agency) comprised of new membership has been created to replace the HDC JPA to continue the planning for the future High Desert Corridor Rail Project. Metro, as a major partner in the planning and funding for the project, is being requested to join the new Agency.

### **BACKGROUND**

In 2006, Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties entered a Joint Powers Agreement creating the HDC JPA. Representatives from the counties of Los Angeles and San Bernardino; the cities of Palmdale, Lancaster, Adelanto, Victorville; and the Town of Apple Valley were appointed by the counties to serve on the HDC JPA Board of Directors. Metro was not a JPA member but was considered a potential candidate to join an expanded HDC JPA after the passage of Measure R in 2008, which included \$33 million for the development of an environmental document for the corridor.

The HDC JPA, a project-specific Joint Powers Authority, was formed to develop transportation options between the Antelope Valley in Los Angeles County and the Victor Valley in San Bernardino County. The HDC JPA initially considered a new freeway/expressway/tollway connecting SR-14 to I-15, but expanded the scope to include rail, bicycle lanes, and other improvements, ultimately becoming the High Desert Multi-Purpose Corridor (HDMC). In 2016, the HDMC received CEQA clearance, and it was determined that the Locally Preferred Alternative would be a multi-modal corridor with a highway and a high-speed rail line in the median connecting the two valleys. At the

time, Metro's role was to fund the CEQA study.

In December 2020, due to litigation and funding issues, Caltrans eliminated the highway portion of the HDMC, but allowed for the possibility of a highway later.

### HDC Rail Project

Upon elimination of the highway component of the HDMC, the HDC Rail Project moved forward. The HDC Rail Project would link the Metrolink/California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) station in Palmdale with an anticipated high-speed rail station in Apple Valley, which would connect to the planned Brightline West, a privately-funded high-speed rail line to Las Vegas.

The HDC Rail Project will service major employment centers and regional destinations, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and provide a passenger rail alternative to the congested I-15 corridor between Southern California and Las Vegas.

Travel time on the 54-mile HDC Rail Project from Palmdale to Apple Valley will be 30 minutes, at speeds traveling up to 180 miles per hour. Travel time on the 190-mile Brightline West corridor from Apple Valley to Las Vegas will be 95 minutes, at speeds traveling up to 180 miles per hour.

The HDC Rail Project is estimated to initially carry 3.1 million riders annually and grow to 14 million riders annually by 2050 based upon the 2015 ridership modeling study and connectivity to the future CHSRA service from Los Angeles to Northern California.

The HDC Rail Project is consistent with CHSRA, Brightline West, the California State Rail Plan, and the Metrolink commuter rail network. The Metro Measure M Expenditure Plan and the Metro Long-Range Transportation Plan have committed \$170 million for the HDC, with funds for engineering and right-of-way acquisition. Additionally, \$1.8 billion in future Measure M funds has been committed in 2063 - 2067 for HDC Rail Project construction.

### Metro Service Development Plan

In August 2020, the Metro Board programmed \$5,000,000 in Measure M HDMC funds for Metro to lead a High Desert Corridor Intercity Rail Corridor Service Development Plan (SDP) effort [File #2020-0046]. Starting in early 2021, Metro has been working with key stakeholders to complete detailed ridership and revenue forecasts, conduct operations modeling, Palmdale Transportation Center station planning, conceptual engineering, and financial analysis to advance the HDC Rail Project to the 15% design level. The SDP is expected to be completed in summer 2022.

### CEQA/NEPA Environmental Update

Concurrent with the SDP, environmental work for the HDC Rail Project has continued. In April 2021, Metro programmed \$400,000 in Proposition C 25% funds to the HDC JPA for additional NEPA work for the HDC Rail Project to address changes to the rail alignment, station location and other related infrastructure changes. In 2021 the HDC JPA requested that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) act as the lead agency for NEPA compliance and that the FRA issue a Record of Decision

(ROD) for the HDC Rail Project and revalidate the results of the previous 2016 CEQA environmental approvals. In 2022 the FRA agreed to become the NEPA lead agency for the HDC Rail Project. The FRA also requested that the NEPA environmental document closely align with the SDP, requiring additional engineering analysis. An ROD is expected in late 2022/early 2023.

Metro Board Action in April 2022

In April 2022, the Metro Board programmed \$1,236,500 in FY 2022-23 Measure M HDMC funds to the HDC JPA to complete the CEQA and NEPA environmental documents for the HDC Rail Project and other related activities related to the HDC JPA governance, including JPA management, planning and administrative coordination, for FY 2022-23.

**DISCUSSION**

On March 1, 2022, San Bernardino County voted to withdraw its membership in the HDC JPA effective June 30, 2022. Since the HDC JPA consists of only two members, Los Angeles County and San Bernardino County, the withdrawal of San Bernardino County dissolved the HDC JPA as of June 30, 2022.

The new Agency will replace the HDC JPA and complete the federal and state environmental review process, pursue grant funding and facilitate the planning, design, construction, financing, operations, and maintenance of the HDC Rail Project, which is subject to funding availability. Metro was not a member of the original Joint Powers Authority. Metro's participation in the new Agency is timely and appropriate now that the HDMC has evolved into the development of the HDC Rail Project, which has linkages with the LA County regional rail network; Metro is currently leading the development of the SDP; and Metro is funding the completion of the CEQA/NEPA document.

The agreement for this new Agency (Attachment A) eliminates San Bernardino County as a member and adds Metro plus the cities of Palmdale, Lancaster, Adelanto, and Victorville as direct members of the Agency Board of Directors. Each member agency will appoint a representative to the Agency's Board of Directors, with each Director receiving one vote. Metro will be represented on the new Agency by the Metro Board North County/San Fernando Valley Sector appointee, currently Chair Ara Najarian. The six voting members and their dates of approval to join the new Agency is as follows:

<b>High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency Member</b>	<b>Governing Board Action</b>
Los Angeles County	June 28, 2022
Metro	August 25, 2022
City of Palmdale	July 20, 2022
City of Lancaster	June 14, 2022
City of Adelanto	June 8, 2022
City of Victorville	July 19, 2022

The County Counsel of Los Angeles County will serve as the Agency's legal adviser. The Auditor-Controller of Los Angeles County will serve as the Agency's auditor. The Treasurer of Los Angeles

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County will serve as the Agency's Treasurer. An annual budget will be established after the new Agency meets, likely to occur in fall 2022.

### **DETERMINATION OF SAFETY IMPACT**

The HDC Rail Project will reduce automobile trips along the SR-138/SR-18 corridor and the I-15 freeway between Southern California and Las Vegas. This project will reduce vehicle accidents and improve safety by moving some people in automobiles along the I-15 corridor to a high-speed rail train, among the safest transportation modes. The HDC Rail Project will be designed to the latest safety standards established by the FRA and other regulatory agencies.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The previous Metro Board action in April 2022 programmed funds to complete the HDC Rail Project environmental work and fund the management and administration of the new Agency for FY 2022-23. Future year Agency budgets will be established annually by the Agency Board thereafter. Measure M HDMC funds, currently \$166 million, are a potential source of funds for Metro's portion of the Agency operations, dues, etc.

### **EQUITY PLATFORM**

The HDC Rail Project will improve mobility for residents in the North Los Angeles County by providing a high-quality, environmentally friendly, safe, and efficient transportation option to the communities to access jobs, health care, education, other services, and economic opportunities offered at major urban and employment centers in Los Angeles and Las Vegas.

The cities of Adelanto and Victorville are designated as high poverty areas. The multi-modal Palmdale High Speed Rail station will be designed to meet the latest Americans with Disability Act requirements along with commuter rail, bus transit, Access Services, ride share and active transportation needs.

The entire project area falls within the low-income communities and households as defined by AB 1550. A significant portion also falls within the disadvantaged and low-income communities as defined by SB 535. In addition, residents within the HDC project area consist of between 61% and 77% in minority populations, with the highest percentage of minority populations in the City of Palmdale. Many of the minority populations include people with limited English proficiency.

The new Agency will enable the environmental process to continue, leading to the ROD and further engineering, outreach, and eventual construction of the HDC, subject to funding availability.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS**

Metro membership in the new Agency supports Vision 2028 Strategic Plan goals 1, 4 and 5, as follows:

- Goal 1: Invest in a world-class transit system that is reliable, convenient, and attractive to more users for more trips;
- Goal 4: Drive mobility agendas, discussions, and policies at the state, regional and national

levels;

- Goal 5: Exercise good public policy judgement and sound fiscal stewardship.

### **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

The Board could choose not to participate as a member of the new Agency. This alternative is not recommended as Metro is a major partner in the funding and planning for the HDC, which is funded through the Measures R and M Expenditure Plans. This includes working closely with the new Agency to complete the environmental CEQA/NEPA process and leading the current SDP effort.

Given Metro's large role in funding for the HDC, it is appropriate that Metro participates as a voting member in the new Agency. The recommendation is also consistent with Metro's overall role and responsibility to provide public transportation mobility opportunities throughout Los Angeles County and its creation of a multimodal, integrated planning function that seeks to integrate all modes of transportation in a comprehensive, holistic approach.

### **NEXT STEPS**

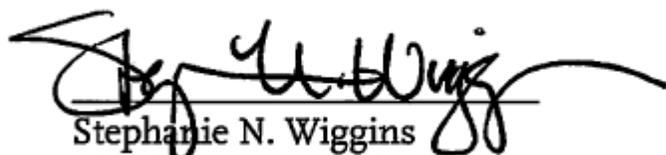
Subject to Board approval of the staff recommendation, the new Agency will convene for its first Board meeting in the fall of 2022. The environmental ROD is anticipated from the FRA in late 2022/early 2023. Staff will work with the new Agency, stakeholders and potential funding partners to advance the HDC Rail Project forward.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A - Joint Powers Agreement Creating the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency

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Stephanie N. Wiggins  
Chief Executive Officer

**JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT**

**CREATING**

**THE HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS AGENCY**

**BY AND AMONG**

**THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY, THE  
CITY OF LANCASTER, THE CITY OF PALMDALE, THE  
CITY OF VICTORVILLE, THE CITY OF ADELANTO, AND  
THE CITY OF APPLE VALLEY**

# HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS AGENCY

## JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT

This JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT, made in accordance with Chapter 5 of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code of the State of California (commencing with Section 6500), as amended and supplemented from time to time (the "Act"), for convenience dated as of XXXXXXXXX (date), by and among the COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY, CITY OF LANCASTER, CITY OF PALMDALE, CITY OF VICTORVILLE, CITY OF ADELANTO, and CITY OF APPLE VALLEY, each of which is a body corporate and politic and a political subdivision of the State of California (the "State") (referred to collectively as "Members").

### RECITALS:

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, the agency created under this Agreement (as defined herein) shall possess such common powers of the Members, and may exercise such powers, as specified in this Agreement and to exercise the additional powers granted to it pursuant to the Act;

WHEREAS, by this Agreement, each Member desires to create and establish the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency for the purposes set forth herein and to exercise the powers provided herein;

WHEREAS, the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority, ("Predecessor JPA"), was created between Los Angeles County and San Bernardino County in November 2006, and shall be dissolved effective July 1, 2022;

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Members that, to the fullest extent possible, the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency shall be the successor in interest in all ways to the Predecessor JPA, and any other mechanisms or sources with which the Predecessor JPA was funded and any other obligations or benefits derived therefrom, including, without limitation, the proposed April 14, 2022, Funding Agreement between Predecessor JPA and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority for the High Desert Intercity Rail Corridor Environmental Work, Surface, Transportation Board Filing, and Predecessor JPA Administration costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Members, for and in consideration of the mutual agreements and covenants contained herein, do agree as follows:

### ARTICLE I

#### DEFINITIONS

**Section 1.01. Definitions.** Unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in this Article I shall, for the purpose hereof, have the meanings herein specified.

"Act" means the Joint Exercise of Powers Act, Articles 1 through 4 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5, Division 7, Title 1 of the California Government Code.

"Agency" shall mean the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency, the separate agency created by this Agreement.

"Agreement" means this Joint Powers Agreement as the same now exists and as it may from time to time be amended.

"Board" means the Board of Directors of the Agency created by this Agreement.

"Brown Act" means the Ralph M. Brown Act (Chapter 9 of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5 of the Government Code of the State of California (Sections 54950 to 54961), and any successor legislation hereinafter enacted.

"Director(s)" means the person(s) appointed to the Board pursuant to Section 2.03.

"Fiscal Year" means the calendar period from July 1<sup>st</sup> to and including the following June 30<sup>th</sup>, unless and until changed by a resolution of the Agency.

"Member" means each of the County of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Agency, City of Lancaster, City of Palmdale, City of Victorville, City of Adelanto, and City of Apple Valley.

"Members" means all of the Member agencies collectively.

"Predecessor JPA" means the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority.

"PTAC" means the Policy and Technical Advisory Committee.

"State" means the State of California.

## ARTICLE II

### GENERAL PROVISIONS REGARDING PURPOSE, CREATION AND OPERATION OF THE AGENCY

**Section 2.01. Purpose.** In accordance with Section 6503 of the Act, the purpose of this Agreement is to provide for the exercise of powers common to each Member, including but not limited to, the creation of the Agency to provide for the financing, planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of public and/or private transportation and utility corridor(s) (Corridor) from Los Angeles County in the vicinity of the Cities of Palmdale and/or Lancaster to San Bernardino County in the vicinity of the Cities of Victorville, Apple Valley and Adelanto. The activities contemplated by this Agreement include all manner and modes of surface transportation and all manner and modes of utilities including pipelines and conduits, and those substances that may be feasibly conveyed by such.

The Agency is intended to be the successor in interest, to the fullest extent possible, to the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority, which shall be dissolved as of July, 1, 2022.

**Section 2.02. Term.** This Agreement shall become effective when it has been approved by each of the Members. This Agreement shall continue in full force and effect until terminated by mutual consent of the Members.

**Section 2.03. Board of Directors.** The Agency shall be governed by a Board of Directors (Board), with each Director receiving one vote. The Board shall be comprised of seven Directors designated as follows:

- A. The County of Los Angeles shall be represented by its Fifth District Supervisor.
- B. Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (“Metro”) shall be represented by the sitting Metro Board Director representing the Northern Los Angeles County Cities Sector seat.
- C. The City of Lancaster shall be represented by an individual selected by the Lancaster City Council.
- D. The City of Palmdale shall be represented by an individual selected by the Palmdale City Council.
- E. The City of Victorville shall be represented by an individual selected by the Victorville City Council.
- F. The City of Adelanto shall be represented by an individual selected by the Adelanto City Council.
- G. The City of Apple Valley shall be represented by an individual selected by the Apple Valley City Council.

**Section 2.04. Alternates.** Except as provided below, each Member shall appoint an alternate (Alternate) for its Director. The Alternate for Los Angeles County’s Fifth District Supervisor shall be nominated by the Fifth District Supervisor and approved by the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors. The Alternate for Metro shall be nominated by the sitting Metro Board Director representing the Northern Los Angeles County Cities Sector seat and approved by the Metro Board of Directors.

**Section 2.05. Term of Board of Directors.** Each Director and Alternate shall serve at the pleasure of his or her appointing authority.

**Section 2.06. Meetings.** All meetings of the Board shall be called, noticed, held, and conducted subject to the provisions of the Brown Act. The Board shall meet a minimum of one time per year. The meeting shall take place at a location determined by the Board, but the location must be within the jurisdictional boundaries of either the County of Los Angeles or the County of San Bernardino.

**Section 2.07. Minutes.** The Secretary shall cause to be kept minutes of the meetings of the Board and shall, as soon as possible after each meeting, cause a copy of the minutes to be forwarded to each Director of the Board, committee members of the PTAC, and the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, or governing body of each Member.

**Section 2.08. Quorum.** A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, except that less than a quorum may adjourn from time to time. The affirmative votes of at least a majority of the Directors present at any meeting at which a quorum is present shall be required to take any action by the Board.

**Section 2.09. Bylaws.** The Board may adopt Bylaws for the conduct of business and as are necessary for the purposes hereof. The Board may adopt additional resolutions, rules, regulations, and policies for the conduct of its business and as are necessary for the purposes hereof in a manner consistent with this Agreement and the Bylaws.

**Section 2.10. Annual Budget.** The Board shall adopt an annual budget for each fiscal year. The Bylaws may further provide for the presentation and content of the budget.

**Section 2.11. Annual Operational and Fiscal Report.** The Board shall cause an annual operational report and annual fiscal report to be prepared and provided to each Member.

**Section 2.12. Enlargement of the Board of Directors.** The Board may increase the number of Directors on the Board from seven Directors by approval by all Directors following ratification by the governing body of each Member.

### ARTICLE III

#### OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

**Section 3.01. Chair and Vice-Chair.** The Board of Directors shall elect from among its Members, a Chair and First and Second Vice-Chairs. The Chair shall sign all contracts on behalf of the Agency, except as otherwise set forth in this Agreement, and shall perform such other duties as may be imposed by the Board in the Bylaws. The First Vice-Chair shall sign contracts and perform all of the Chair's duties in the absence of the Chair, unless the Bylaws of the Agency provide otherwise. The duties of the Second Vice-Chair may be set forth in the Bylaws. Elections for such officers shall be held each year at a regular or special meeting of the Board with terms running concurrent with the Agency's Fiscal Year. The term of office shall be the Fiscal Year or until a successor is elected.

**Section 3.02. Secretary.** The Board shall appoint a Secretary to the Board. The Secretary shall serve at the pleasure of the Board. The Secretary shall countersign all contracts signed by the Chair or Vice-Chair on behalf of the Agency, unless the Bylaws of the Agency provide otherwise. The Secretary shall cause a notice of this Agreement to be filed with the California Secretary of State pursuant to Section 6503.5 of the Act and Section 53051 of the California Government Code. The Secretary shall be responsible to the Board for the call, noticing and conduct of the meetings pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act (Section 54950 et seq. of the California Government Code). The Board may further provide for the duties and responsibilities of the Secretary in the Bylaws.

**Section 3.03. Treasurer.** Pursuant to Section 6505.5 of the Act, the Treasurer of the County of Los Angeles shall serve as the Treasurer of the Agency, unless and until otherwise determined by the Agency. The Treasurer shall be the depository, shall have custody of all of the accounts, funds and money of the Agency from whatever source, shall have the duties and obligations set forth in Sections 6505 and 6505.5 of the Act, and shall assure that there shall be strict accountability of all funds and reporting of all receipts and disbursements of the Agency. The bond of the Treasurer under this Agreement shall be his official bond as the Treasurer of the County of Los Angeles and no additional bond will be required. The monies of the Agency shall be accounted for separately and invested in the same manner and upon the same conditions as local agencies pursuant to Section 53601 of the Government Code, including but not limited to investment in the County treasury pool of Los Angeles County.

**Section 3.04. Contract With Certified Public Accountant.** The Auditor-Controller of Los Angeles County shall serve as the Auditor of the Agency, unless and until otherwise determined by the Agency. As required by Section 6505 of the Act, the Auditor shall make arrangements or contract with a certified public accountant or firm of certified public accountants for the annual audit of accounts and records of the Agency. In each case, the minimum requirements of the audit shall be those prescribed by the State Controller for special districts under Section 26909 of the Government Code of the State of California and shall conform to generally-accepted auditing standards. When such an audit of accounts and records is made by a certified public accountant, a report thereof shall be filed with each Member and each officer of the Agency. Such a report shall be filed within six months of the end of the fiscal year under examination. Any costs of the audit, including contracts with, or employment of, certified public accountants in making an audit pursuant to this section, shall be borne by the Agency and shall be a charge against any unencumbered funds of the Agency available for that purpose.

**Section 3.05. Officers in Charge of Records, Funds and Accounts.** Pursuant to Sections 6505.1 of the Act, the Treasurer shall have charge of, handle, and have access to all accounts, funds and money of the Agency and all records of the Agency relating thereto. The Secretary shall have charge of, handle, and have access to all other records of the Agency.

**Section 3.06. Legal Advisor.** The County Counsel of Los Angeles County ("County Counsel") shall serve as legal advisor and counsel to the Agency. County Counsel may consult with counsel for the other Members as necessary, or as directed.

**Section 3.07. Other Employees.** The Board shall have the power by adoption of Bylaws to appoint and employ such other employees, consultants, and independent contractors as may be necessary for the purpose of this Agreement.

**Section 3.08. Officers and Employees of the Agency.** As required by Section 6513 of the Act, all of the privileges and immunities from liability, exemption from laws, ordinances and rules, all pension, relief, disability, workers' compensation, and other benefits that apply to the activities of officers, agents, or employees of a public agency when performing their respective functions shall apply to the officers, agents, or employees of the Agency to the same degree and extent while engaged in the performance of any of the functions and other duties of such offices, agents, or employees under this Agreement with no additional compensation. None of the officers, agents, or employees directly employed by the Board shall be deemed, by reason of their

employment by the Board, to be employed by any of the Members or, by reason of their employment by the Board, to be subject to any of the requirements of the Members.

## ARTICLE IV

### POWERS

**Section 4.01. Creation of a Separate Legal Entity.** As required in the Act, the Agency shall be a public entity separate from each of the Members in accordance with the meaning of California Government Code section 6503.5. Accordingly, there is hereby created a separate legal entity, which shall exercise its powers in accordance with the provision of this Agreement and applicable law.

**Section 4.02. General Powers.** The Agency shall exercise, in the manner herein provided, the powers that are common to each of the Members, or as otherwise permitted under the Act, and as is necessary to the accomplishment of the purpose, as provided in Section 2.01, Purpose, of this Agreement.

**Section 4.03. Specific Powers.** The Agency is hereby authorized, in its own name, to do all acts necessary for the exercise of the foregoing general powers, including but not limited to, any or all of the following:

- (a) to make and enter into contracts;
- (b) to employ agents or employees;
- (c) to sue and be sued in its own name;
- (d) to acquire, by negotiated purchase or condemnation, construct, manage, maintain or operate any property, building, works, or improvements;
- (e) to acquire, by negotiated purchase or condemnation, hold or dispose of property;
- (f) to incur debts, liabilities or obligations, provided that no such debt, liability, or obligation shall constitute a debt, liability or obligation of the Members;
- (g) to apply for, accept, receive and disburse grants, loans and other aids from any agency of the United States of America or of the State;
- (h) to invest any money in the treasury pool as indicated in Section 3.03 of this Agreement; and
- (i) to carry out and enforce all the provisions of this Agreement.

**Section 4.04. Restrictions on Powers.** Pursuant to Section 6509 of the Act, the above powers shall be subject to the restrictions upon the manner of exercising the power of one of the Members, which is designated as County of Los Angeles.

**Section 4.05. Obligations of Agency.** The debts, liabilities and obligations of the Agency shall not be the debts, liabilities and obligations of the Members.

**Section 4.06. Successor in Interest to Predecessor JPA.** It is the intent of the Members that, to the fullest extent possible, the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency shall be the successor in interest in all ways to the Predecessor JPA, and any other mechanisms or sources with which the Predecessor JPA was funded and any other obligations or benefits derived therefrom, including, without limitation, the proposed April 14, 2022, Funding Agreement between Predecessor JPA and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority for the High Desert Intercity Rail Corridor Environmental Work, Surface, Transportation Board Filing, and Predecessor JPA Administration costs.

## ARTICLE V

### POLICY AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Section 5.01. Creation of Committee.** There shall exist in the Agency a committee named the Policy and Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC). There shall be fourteen voting members of the PTAC who shall be appointed as follows: two each by the Members.

**Section 5.02. Other Agencies.** The PTAC may include other non-voting agencies that the Board may deem appropriate, including but not limited to Caltrans, San Bernardino Associated Governments, etc.

**Section 5.03. Duties.** The PTAC shall provide advice on policy and technical issues to the Board and have such other and further duties as may be set forth in the Bylaws.

## ARTICLE VI

### CONTRIBUTIONS, ASSETS AND DISTRIBUTION UPON TERMINATION

**Section 6.01. Contributions.** The Members may make contributions from their treasuries for the purpose set forth in Section 2.01, Purpose, make payments of public funds to defray the cost of such purpose, make advances of public funds for such purpose, and/or use their personnel, equipment, or property in lieu of contributions or advances. The provisions of Section 6512.1 of the Act are hereby incorporated into this Agreement by reference.

**Section 6.02. Distribution of Assets upon Termination.** Upon termination of this Agreement and after resolution of all debts, liabilities and obligations, all money and other property, both real and personal, of the Agency shall, pursuant to Sections 6511 and 6512 of the Act, be divided among the Members proportional to the contributions made by the respective Members.

## ARTICLE VII

## LIABILITY, INDEMNIFICATION AND INSURANCE

**Section 7.01. Agency Liability and Indemnification.** The debts, liabilities, and obligations of the Agency shall not be the debts, liabilities, and obligations of the Members. The Board of Directors of the Agency, and the officers, employees, and staff of the Agency shall use ordinary care and reasonable diligence in the exercise of their powers and in the performance of their duties pursuant to this Agreement. They shall not be liable for any mistakes of judgment or any other action made, taken, or omitted by them in good faith, including without limitation, investment of Agency funds, or failure to invest. No member of the Board of Directors, and no officer or employee of the Agency, shall be responsible for any action taken or omitted by any other director, officer or employee. No director, officer or employee shall be required to give a bond or other security to guarantee the faithful performance of his or her duties pursuant to this Agreement, except as otherwise provided in Section 3.03. The Agency shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the individual Board of Director members, and the Agency's officers and employees from any and all claims, actions, losses, damages, and/or liability arising from any actions or omissions taken lawfully and in good faith pursuant to this Agreement. The Agency shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless each of the Members and their authorized officers, employees, agents, and volunteers from any and all claims, actions, losses, damages, and/or liability arising from the Agency's acts, errors, or omissions and for any costs or expenses incurred by any Member on account of any claim therefor, except where such indemnification is prohibited by law.

**Section 7.02. Member Indemnification.** Pursuant to the provisions of California Government Code Section 895 et seq., and except as required in Section 7.01, Agency Liability and Indemnification, herein, each Member agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless each other Member from any liability, claim,, or judgment for injury or damages caused by any negligent or wrongful act or omission of any agent, officer, and/or employee of the indemnifying Member that occurs or arises out of the performance of this Agreement.

**Section 7.03. Insurance.** The Board shall provide for insurance covering liability exposure in an amount as the Board determines necessary to cover risks of activities of the Agency.

**Section 7.04. Third Party Beneficiaries.** This Agreement and the obligations hereto are not intended to benefit any party other than its Members, except as expressly provided otherwise herein. Only the signatories to this Agreement shall have any rights or causes of action against any party to this Agreement as a result of that party's performance or non-performance under this Agreement, except as expressly stated in this Agreement.

## ARTICLE VIII

### MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

**Section 8.01. Notices.** Notices hereunder shall be in writing and shall be sufficient if addressed to the offices listed below and shall be deemed given upon deposit into the U.S. mail, first class, postage prepaid:

Los Angeles County                      Fifth District Supervisor  
869 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

With a copy to:                              Los Angeles County Counsel  
500 West Temple Street, Suite 648  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

NOTE: each Member needs to provide contact info for notice

- The County of Los Angeles shall be represented by its Fifth District Supervisor.
- Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (“Metro”) shall be represented by the sitting Metro Board Director representing the Northern Los Angeles County Cities Sector seat.
- The City of Lancaster shall be represented by an individual selected by the Lancaster City Council.
- The City of Palmdale shall be represented by an individual selected by the Palmdale City Council.
- The City of Victorville shall be represented by an individual selected by the Victorville City Council.
- The City of Adelanto shall be represented by an individual selected by the Adelanto City Council.
- The City of Apple Valley shall be represented by an individual selected by the Apple Valley City Council.

The Members may change the above addresses for notice purposes by written notification as provided above to each of the other Members. Said change of address may be filed with the Bylaws. Meeting notices and general correspondence may be served electronically.

**Section 8.02. Law Governing.** This Agreement is made in the State of California under the constitution and laws of the State, and is to be so construed.

**Section 8.03. Amendments.** This Agreement may be amended at any time, or from time to time, by unanimous consent of all Members hereto.

**Section 8.04. Severability.** Should any part, term, or provision of this Agreement be decided by any court of competent jurisdiction to be illegal or in conflict with any law of the State, or otherwise be rendered unenforceable or ineffectual, the validity of the remaining portions or provisions shall not be affected thereby.

**Section 8.05. Successors.** This Agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the successors of the Members, respectively. No Member may assign any right or obligation hereunder without the unanimous consent of all Members.

**Section 8.06. Section Headings.** All Article and Section headings in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and are not to be construed as modifying or governing the

language in the Section referred to or to define or limit the scope of any provision of this Agreement.

**Section 8.07. Multiple Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in multiple counterparts, any one of which shall be deemed an original but all such counterparts shall together constitute but one and the same instrument.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed and attested by their duly authorized officers, and their official seal to be hereto affixed, as of the day and year written.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DAWYN R. HARRISON  
Acting County Counsel

By: \_\_\_\_\_

- Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (“Metro”) shall be represented by the sitting Metro Board Director representing the Northern Los Angeles County Cities Sector seat.
- The City of Lancaster shall be represented by an individual selected by the Lancaster City Council.
- The City of Palmdale shall be represented by an individual selected by the Palmdale City Council.
- The City of Victorville shall be represented by an individual selected by the Victorville City Council.
- The City of Adelanto shall be represented by an individual selected by the Adelanto City Council.
- The City of Apple Valley shall be represented by an individual selected by the Apple Valley City Council.