



CITY OF MERCED

MERCED

4/30/2025

The Honorable Joaquin Arambula, M.D.
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 4240
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 314 (Arambula) – SUPPORT – (As Amended April 10, 2025)

Dear Assemblymember Arambula:

On behalf of the City of Merced, I am pleased to express our strong support for Assembly Bill 314, which expands eligibility under the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program to include projects located near planned high-speed rail stations.

As a future high-speed rail station community, the City of Merced is actively preparing for a more connected, sustainable future. Transit-oriented development (TOD) around high-speed rail stations presents a transformational opportunity to create vibrant, walkable communities with expanded housing, retail, and job opportunities, while also reducing automobile dependency and lowering greenhouse gas emissions.

Currently, many state programs focus investment near existing transit infrastructure but do not recognize the need to proactively support areas surrounding planned high-speed rail stations. Without early investment in TOD, communities like Merced risk missing the full economic, housing, and environmental benefits high-speed rail promises to deliver. AB 314 smartly addresses this gap, ensuring that projects enhancing pedestrian access, affordable housing, and sustainable development near planned high-speed rail stations can receive the necessary support.

By passing AB 314, the Legislature can help ensure that high-speed rail becomes not just a transportation project, but a catalyst for equitable, long-term economic growth across the Central Valley and throughout California.

For these reasons, the City of Merced strongly supports AB 314 and respectfully urges your colleagues to advance this important measure. If you should have any further questions, please contact Sharon Gonsalves at California Public Policy Group (916) 974-9270.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Matthew Serratto
Mayor,
City of Merced

cc: Members and Staff of the Assembly Transportation Committee
The Honorable Esmeralda Soria, Assemblymember 27th District