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ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR



CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY

January 25, 2008

Dear Stakeholder:

The California High-Speed Rail Authority's public Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, February 6, 2008, in Sacramento, at the State Capitol, Room 4203. **Please note the meeting is scheduled to begin at 10:00 am.**

At this meeting, staff will recommend the board create the "Altamont Pass HST/Regional Rail Steering Committee" to investigate joint-use improvements in the Altamont Pass connecting the Northern San Joaquin Valley with the Bay Area, and commence its work upon certification of the Bay Area to Central Valley final Program EIR/EIS and approval or selection of a preferred alternative. Additionally, staff will ask the board for authority to investigate the feasibility of achieving zero emissions for the HST operations. The board will discuss and vote on a proposed Co-Operative Agreement with the French Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Spatial Planning and the Transportation and Construction Attaché from the Embassy of France will make a presentation on the French High Speed Train Program. Staff will report on the feasibility study conducted to identify viable alignment alternatives to support a station in the Visalia-Tulare-Hanford area and Professor Elizabeth Deakin will report on the UC Berkeley study, currently underway, focusing on the potential for Transit Oriented Development in the Central Valley.

At the December 19, 2007 meeting, the Board directed staff to complete the Final EIR/EIS based on staff recommended preferred network alternative, HST alignment and station locations for the Bay Area to Central Valley. Additionally I proposed the formation of an Altamont Pass corridor steering committee to help determine to what extent HST service can be provided in the Altamont Pass corridor and how HST would be coordinated and compatible with other rail services in this corridor.

For more information on the Authority's accomplishments, visit our website at www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov.

I look forward to seeing you in Sacramento at our Board Meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Morshed".

Mehdi Morshed, Executive Director