



CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Chairperson and Authority Members      **Date:** April 30, 2009  
**From:** Mehdi Morshed, Executive Director  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 12 – Draft MOU with the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission

**Discussion:**

As a complement to the statewide HST services, the Authority is pursuing a partnership with local and regional agencies and transit providers to propose and develop a joint-use (“Regional Rail” and HST) passenger rail infrastructure project in the Altamont Pass Corridor as advocated in MTC’s “Regional Rail Plan for the San Francisco Bay Area.” The San Joaquin Rail Commission (“Commission”) is interested in working cooperatively with the Authority to serve mutual objectives regarding the planning and development of the joint-use infrastructure in the Altamont Pass Corridor and the HST corridor linking Sacramento and Merced.

As outlined in the Draft MOU, the Commission would actively participate in the Authority’s technical and environmental studies. The Commission will provide technical and policy input and technical support, review, and comment on documents in a timely manner, and work together with other agencies for improvements relating to both the joint-use project in the Altamont Pass Corridor, and the HST service linking Sacramento and Merced. In addition, the parties agree to general planning principles and shared objectives.

Authority staff worked with Commission staff to develop the attached Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work cooperatively throughout the preparation of project-level HST EIR/EIS documents and developing Regional Rail and HST in the region.

There is agreement between the Authority staff and Commission staff in regards to the main points described in the draft MOU. The Authority’s legal counsel has reviewed the draft.

**Recommendation:**

Authority staff request authorization for the Executive Director to enter into an MOU with the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission regarding planning and developing Regional Rail services and HST for the joint-use Altamont Pass Corridor and the HST link between Sacramento and Merced, as generally described above and in the draft MOU.