

Open letter to CHSRA Oct 14th 2014

"Blended Rail" violates the premise of Prop 1A (2008), that High Speed Rail would be "...Safe, Reliable..."

We fence 65 mph freeways against intrusion and cross-traffic. Caltrain runs 79 mph past station platforms and dozens of cross streets. You talk of boosting that speed to 125 mph. It's a recipe for disaster - far worse than Amtrak's Bourbonnais grade crossing collision (also on 79 mph track) that derailed two locomotives, scattered 11 of 14 train cars trackside, killed 11 passengers, and injured 128. (Fortunately the truck was hauling steel, not gasoline.)

To meet the "...Safe, Reliable..." premise of Prop 1A, High Speed Rail needs a secure track, fenced and grade separated. Initial HSR to the Bay Area should end at San Jose, with a nearly seamless transfer to Caltrain, Capitol Corridor, VTA light rail, and the planned SV-BART.

Extend it later along an up-graded UP/Amtrak Mulford route to Oakland and on to Sacramento. A new transfer station at the BART overhead in Oakland would be 6 minutes from downtown San Francisco's Embarcadero station with at least 16 trains per hour.

Squander no more HSR funds on Caltrain electrification and extension. High Speed trains on its tracks would be vulnerable to devastating mishap.

Robert S. Allen
BART Director, District 5, 1974-1988
Retired, SP (now UP) Western Division
Engineering/Operations



Bakersfield/Kern Supporters for High Speed Rail

Date: February 9, 2015

To: Members of Kern County Board of Supervisors

From: Bakersfield/Kern Supporters for High Speed Rail

Re: Agenda item #16: Proposed letter to CHSRA Regarding Kern County Heavy Maintenance Facility Site Advantages

I wanted to personally attend today's board meeting to speak in strong support for agenda item #16, which is the request of the CAO for Board approval to send letter to CHSRA & others, regarding the benefit of placing the site for CHSRA Heavy Maintenance Facility in Kern County.

I believe your CAO is forward-thinking in taking this action as it will greatly benefit the county, all residents and businesses in Kern County and we commend him for his leadership on this issue.

On this date, I am in Sacramento attending the CHSRA Board meeting, to speak in support of board agenda item #4: City of Bakersfield vs. CHSRA lawsuit settlement agreement. The Bakersfield/Kern Supporters for High Speed Rail request the County of Kern enter into good faith discussions with CHSRA, regarding outstanding issues, to settle its lawsuit with CHSRA.

I believe that the City of Bakersfield's settlement agreement with CHSRA shows their willingness to work with our community local leaders, in good faith, to address local concerns.

The project is moving forward; let's stay at the table and get the best deal we can for our community.

Sincerely,

Marvin Dean
BKSFHRS Chairperson
Cell # 661-747-1465

Kern County Administrative Office



County Administrative Center

1115 Truxtun Avenue, Fifth Floor • Bakersfield, CA 93301-4639

Telephone 661-868-3198 • FAX 661-868-3190 • TTY Relay 800-735-2929

JOHN NILON

County Administrative Officer

February 10, 2015

Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

PROPOSED LETTER TO CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY REGARDING KERN COUNTY HEAVY MAINTENANCE FACILITY SITE ADVANTAGES

Fiscal Impact: None

This is to request that your Board authorize the Chairman to sign the attached letters to the California High-Speed Rail Authority and to trainset manufacturers that have responded to the Authority's Request for Expressions of Interest. The letters summarize the advantages of Kern County's three potential sites near Shafter and Wasco for the High-Speed Rail Heavy Maintenance Facility (HMF), and they direct manufacturers to more detailed site information.

Only one HMF will be built on the high-speed train system. In January 2010, the County assisted the Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG) in assembling and submitting Expressions of Interest to the High-Speed Rail Authority for two potential HMF sites along the proposed high-speed train alignment paralleling the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad. The Shafter site is north of Seventh Standard Road on the east side of the proposed high-speed train alignment; the Wasco site is on the eastern edge of the City of Wasco south of State Route 46. In response to a minor train alignment change, Kern COG subsequently submitted a third site, essentially a mirror of the Shafter site in location, acreage, and configuration but on the west side of the alignment. The Wasco HMF site straddles both the old and the new proposed alignment.

The HMF, which will also house the Central Operations Center and training programs for HSR personnel, is estimated to employ from 1,500 to 2,500 workers at annual wages averaging well in excess of \$50,000, and it is expected to confer tremendous economic benefits on the area where it will be built. Besides being used to maintain, overhaul, and retire high-speed train rolling stock, the facility would be used during the pre-revenue service period for assembling, testing, acceptance and commissioning of the new rolling stock fleet. It is therefore anticipated that equipment manufacturing and associated industries will likely co-locate with the HMF, bringing additional jobs beyond those directly associated with the HMF into the local economy.

In October 2014, the HSR Authority issued a Request for Expressions of Interest from high-speed trainset manufacturers and received responses from nine U.S. and foreign companies. Because of the need to co-locate its operations in close proximity to the HMF, the manufacturer that is chosen to equip the high-speed rail system is expected to exercise substantial influence in determining the HMF location.

In the five years since Kern COG submitted HMF site proposals to the High-Speed Rail Authority, a number of lawsuits have been filed against the HSR Authority seeking to block the project on environmental grounds or by denying federal funding. To date, none of the lawsuits has stopped the project from moving forward. ✓

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Heavy Maintenance Facility Site Advantages
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The County filed a lawsuit against the High-Speed Rail Authority in 2014 opposing a portion of the adopted high-speed train alignment in Kern County, and the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution opposing the Authority's business plan in 2012. Last year the Fresno County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution opposing the project, reversing its longstanding support for high-speed rail.

Critics of that vote warned that the Board's opposition could jeopardize Fresno County's proposal to host the Heavy Maintenance Facility there. Similarly, Kern County's official opposition to the 2012 high-speed rail business plan could complicate advocacy for a Kern County HMF site.

Regardless, with initial construction of the project now underway, and train manufacturers now preparing proposals that will involve discussions of where to site operations including the Heavy Maintenance Facility, the County should contact both the Authority and the manufacturers to remind them of the advantages offered by the Kern County HMF sites and to highlight the enhanced infrastructure that has been added since the 2010 proposals were submitted.

Therefore, IT IS RECOMMENDED that your Board authorize the Chairman to sign the attached letters informing the California High-Speed Rail Authority and companies that have expressed interest in manufacturing high-speed trains for the system of the advantages that Kern County sites offer for the location of the Heavy Maintenance Facility and associated operations.

Sincerely,



for John Nilon
County Administrative Officer

JN:ADKLEGGEN HSR Heavy Maintenance Facility BOS.docx
CF 1000.30.35

Attachment

cc: Community and Economic Development Department
Employers' Training Resource
Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce
Kern Council of Governments
Kern Economic Development Corporation
Kern County Taxpayers Association
Shafter City Manager
Wasco City Manager

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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David R. Couch District 4
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KATHLEEN KRAUSE
CLERK OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, California 93301
Telephone (661) 868-3585
TTY Relay 800-735-2929

February 10, 2015

The Honorable Dan Richard, Chairman
California High-Speed Rail Authority
925 I Street 1425
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Richard:

The Kern County Board of Supervisors would like to provide updated information on the Heavy Maintenance Facility proposals submitted by the Kern Council of Governments in January 2010. It has been five years since those proposals were submitted, and a number of improvements have been made since then.

In addition, the recent Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) seeking trainset manufacturers mentions development of a heavy maintenance facility, and three light maintenance facilities.

Below is a list of benefits and site improvements that our Board would like to bring to your attention. This information will also be of interest to those who responded to the REOI.

Kern Shafter Site

- Single willing landowner (donated land)
- Land is entitled. No zoning changes are required.
- Adjacent to the preferred alignment (BNSF)
- Annexation of the land by the City of Shafter is in progress.
- No existing developments, or hazardous sites to remove or relocate
- New fiber optic network installed that would support HMF Control Center operations
- Electric utility distribution lines upgrades along Seventh Standard Road
- Road improvements widening Seventh Standard Road from State Route 99 to Santa Fe Way include new State Route 99 freeway interchange and new railroad overpass at Santa Fe Way.
- Future improvements are planned for Seventh Standard Road to Interstate 5.
- Close to State Route 99 and Interstate 5
- Close to Kern County Airport (international flights) and Foreign Trade Zone
- Adjacent to large industrial park ideal for HMF support businesses
- Close to California State University, Bakersfield and its new Engineering Department

Kern Wasco Site

- Adjacent to the preferred alignment (BNSF)
- No existing developments, or hazardous sites to remove or relocate
- Adjacent to State Route 46
- Existing housing that was a concern at the time of the original proposal has been relocated and is no longer a factor.

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HSR Heavy Maintenance Facility Authority
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The Kern County Board of Supervisors recognizes that issues regarding high-speed train alignments and business plans still need to be resolved. However, we continue to believe that Kern County offers the greatest advantages in cost, time, and logistics for the location of a high-speed train Heavy Maintenance Facility and associated operations.

Sincerely,

David Couch, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

JN:ADK/LEGGEN HSR Heavy Maintenance Facility Authority A
CF 1000.30.35

Attachment

cc: Community and Economic Development Department
Employers' Training Resource
Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce
Kern Council of Governments
Kern Economic Development Corporation
Kern County Taxpayers Association
Shafter City Manager
Wasco City Manager

Schools competed this year answering questions in 10 events including art, economics.

Among the multiple-choice brain twisters: Question: Pablo Picasso worked through

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2015

B1 Local

The Baker'sfield Californian

NEWSROOM EDITORS

Christine Bedell • Phone 395-7417 • Email: cbedell@bakersfield.com
Christine Peterson • Phone 395-7418 • Email: cpeterson@bakersfield.com

County may push bid for bullet train facility

BY JOHN COX
The Baker'sfield Californian
jcox@bakersfield.com

What's a little hostility among future business partners?

On Thursday, the Kern County Board of Supervisors will consider promoting its candidacy for a high-speed rail maintenance facility that could come with up to 2,500 well-paying jobs.

Never mind that the county sued to force changes to the project last year or that the board voted in 2012 to oppose the bullet train's business plan.

Their odds are not lost on County Administrative Officer John Nilan

who drafted "update" letters he is asking the board's permission to send the California High-Speed Rail Authority and nine companies vying to build the project's train set.

His staff report noted the board's 2012 vote of opposition "could complicate advocacy" for Kern's bid for the maintenance site.

He emphasized, however, that Fresno County — seen by many as a front runner for the facility — is in a similar bind. Its board of supervisors voted last year to oppose the project, reversing its longstanding support for the \$69 billion project.

Whichever county wins the right to host the facility stands to gain 1,500 to 2,500 jobs averaging more than \$50,000 per year.

Whichever county wins the right to host the facility stands to gain 1,500 to 2,500 jobs averaging more

than \$50,000 per year. But more than that, the prevailing county could also attract manufacturing and other jobs as part of an industry cluster expected to develop around the site.

The project's "heavy maintenance facility" or HMF would provide train upkeep, testing, assembling and other services. The rail authority's governing board expects to choose among several proposed sites, including Fresno's, if another year or two.

In January 2014, Kern proposed two properties, one in Shafter and one in Wasco, that could house the HMF.

The Shafter proposal was later adjusted to accommodate a change to the project's planned route.

The letter Nilan has proposed would update the rail authority's profile of both sites.

The Shafter site, it says, belongs to a single landowner willing to donate the entire property.

Already zoned for uses including a train facility, the site is vacant, adjacent to the project's proposed route, equipped with a fiber optic network and located near a large industrial park that could accommodate HMF support businesses.

Please see **TRAIN/B3**

December 15, 2014

Mr. Dan Richard, Chair
Board of Directors
California High Speed Rail Authority
770 L Street, Suite 800
Sacramento, CA 95814



Via E-mail: boardmembers@hsr.ca.gov

Re: Request for Grant - Outreach Program for the Under-Served and Under-Represented Assyrian Community in the Central Valley, California

Dear Mr. Richard:

Assyrians for Education (AFE) appreciates the opportunity to present this letter proposal for a grant request to California High Speed Rail Authority to be utilized towards creating an Outreach Program for the under-served and under-represented Assyrian Community living in the Central Valley, California.

Presented below are:

- History of Assyrian Settlers in California
- Benefits of the Proposed Outreach Program for California High Speed Rail Authority
- Proposed Training to be Offered by AFE
- Proposed Training Medium and Venue
- AFE Grant Request
- About Assyrians for Education (AFE)

History of Assyrians Settlers in California

Assyrian settlers began to arrive in the United States during the last part of the 19th century. The migration has continued to date due to various acts of genocides against the Assyrian people throughout the history including most recently by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

The United States is home to the third largest Assyrian community in the world. The 2000 U.S. census counted 82,355 Assyrians/Chaldeans/Syriacs in the country with majority residing in California. **Over 30,000 Assyrians live in the Central Valley (Turlock, Modesto, Ceres, Atwater, Fresno and other small surrounding cities).**

The new immigrants come to Central Valley simply because it has a large population of Assyrians. **These people are not visitors.** They are

immigrants, here to stay and help shape the future of the Central Valley. Assimilating these immigrants into the American society is a challenge in itself and to help them obtain employment and/or start their own small businesses is even more challenging.

Based on community interviews performed by AFE, 99% of the Assyrians living in the Central Valley Area are not aware of the High Speed Rail Project and the opportunities it offers. Therefore, there is a significant need for an outreach program tailored specifically towards this under-served and under-represented minority group.

Benefits of the Proposed Outreach Program for California High Speed Rail Authority

People of the State of California are the beneficiaries of the High Speed Rail Project which is the most transformative project in our state. The jobs and business opportunities created by the construction of the high speed rail is putting Californians to work, especially in the Central Valley and helping ease the significant unemployment created by the recent recession.

The Assyrian Community of the Central Valley is unaware of the employment and business opportunities created by the High Speed Rail Project. This is due to lack of information and outreach programs specifically targeted towards this underprivileged group. Our proposed outreach program can bridge this gap by educating Assyrians on the merits and opportunities associated with this transformative project. This outreach will be in support of the High Speed Rail Authority's vision of serving all residents of California and has potential to bring national recognition for the Authority for reaching out to a group who has fled from unspeakable terror and has sought refuge in our country!

The AFE outreach program will be focused toward targeted workers living within the Assyrian Community who at least meet one of the following barriers to employment:

1. being homeless;
2. being a custodial single parent;
3. receiving public assistance;
4. lacking a GED or high school diploma;
5. having a criminal record or other involvement with the criminal justice system;
6. suffering from chronic unemployment; and
7. being a veteran of the Iraq/Afghanistan war.

Proposed Training to be Offered by AFE

The following are the list of training proposed under this grant.

- General information about the High Speed Rail Project
- Pre-apprenticeship and Apprenticeship Program
- OSHA Outreach Training Program
- Resume Preparation
- Job Interview Training
- Job Search
- Small Business Certification Workshops
- Marketing and Bidding Process
- Mentoring Program

Proposed Training Medium and Venue

The main training medium will be in person by holding outreach programs within the Assyrian Community Halls, Public Libraries, and other social halls. The second training medium will be through the Assyrian National Broadcasting TV Station. Educational programs created by AFE in collaboration with the Assyrian National Broadcasting are viewed via satellite throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico and globally via the internet.

It goes without saying that of all media, television plays a fundamental role in the life of underprivileged individuals in the United States and abroad. Television is perceived as a learning source and is often valued for its educational function.

The media today encompasses essentially every component of the society in a way that it is nearly impossible to remain ignorant anymore. It plays a major role in developing opinions or preferences and interpretation of how people see the world around them. Most importantly, the media brings awareness to people and triggers interest of those privileged individuals to extend a helping hand to those deprived.

AFE Grant Request

AFE requests a grant for the amount \$195,000 to conduct this specialized outreach program over a period six months.

Our scope of work for this project is summarized below:

1. Hold meetings on at the following locations: Turlock, Modesto, Atwater and Fresno
2. Create a TV and a Radio Commercial for the Events
3. Advertise the events via social media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, etc.)

4. Advertise the events in the local newspapers
5. Create handouts describing the High Speed Rail Project and the types of expertise needed
6. Invite officials from High Speed Rail to describe the project and outline its needs
7. Invite local unions to participate and explain their procedures in accepting union members and signatories as well as their training programs
1. Invite OSHA to present their requirement
2. Invite selected prime contractors to discuss their needs and provide a forum for the attendees to meet the primes face to face
8. Invite small government officials in charge of small business certifications

Beverages and light lunch will be provided for the attendees. The meetings will take place at public or a non-profit facility at no cost or minimal cost to AFE.

The entire event will be pre-recorded and televised on the Assyrian National Broadcasting (ANB) TV Station.

Below table provides a summary of our anticipated cost.

Estimated Budget	
Items Needed	Cost Estimate
Labor Cost (Trainers, Educators, Administrators)	\$130,000
Hall Rental	\$10,000
Equipment Rental (Cameras, TVs, Projectors, Tables, Chairs)	\$10,000
Document Reproductions	\$10,000
Purchase of Air Time on ANB	\$25,000
Purchase of Air Time on Local Radios	\$10,000
Total Expenses	\$195,000

About Assyrians for Education (AFE)

Assyrians for Education (AFE) was established in 1997 and organized under the Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law for Public and Charitable Purposes within the purview of Section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code. AFE's mission is to help underprivileged minority groups and new immigrants to assimilate into the American society and achieve the American dream through education. The attached letter from IRS confirms AFE's non-profit status.

The Assyrians were one of the first creators of "Wheel." Please assist them to continue their legacy by participating in a small way in building the first High Speed Rail Project in the United States.

Thank you for your consideration. We are happy to meet with you in person to present our request to the Authority, if needed.

We look forward to hearing from you.

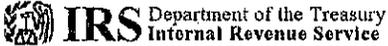
Best Regards,
ASSYRIANS FOR EDUCATION

Romena
Jonas
Romena Jonas
President

Digitally signed by Romena Jonas
DN: cn=Romena Jonas,
o=Assyrians For Education, ou,
email=romena@assyriansforeduc
ation.org, c=US
Date: 2014.12.17 14:46:21 -08'00'

CC: Mr. Jeff Morales, CEO, California High Speed Rail Authority
Ms. Diana Gomez, Central Region Director, California High Speed Rail Authority

Attachment: IRS Letter



OGDEN UT 84201-0038

In reply refer to: 0438190074
Aug. 06, 2014 LTR 4168C 0
68-0418033 000000 00
Input Op: 0438190074 00040233
BODC: TE

ASSYRIANS FOR EDUCATION
% ROMENA JONAS
228 BURNING TREE DR
SAN JOSE CA 95119-1823

021049

Employer Identification Number: 68-0418033
Person to Contact: us
Toll Free Telephone Number: 1-877-829-5500

Dear Taxpayer:

This is in response to your July 28, 2014, request for information regarding your tax-exempt status.

Our records indicate that you were recognized as exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code in a determination letter issued in 200002.

Our records also indicate that you are not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code because you are described in section(s) 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

Donors may deduct contributions to you as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to you or for your use are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.

Please refer to our website www.irs.gov/eo for information regarding filing requirements. Specifically, section 6033(j) of the Code provides that failure to file an annual information return for three consecutive years results in revocation of tax-exempt status as of the filing due date of the third return for organizations required to file. We will publish a list of organizations whose tax-exempt status was revoked under section 6033(j) of the Code on our website beginning in early 2011.

0438190074

Aug. 06, 2014 LTR 4168C 0

68-0418033 000000 00

Input Op: 0438190074 00040234

ASSYRIANS FOR EDUCATION
% ROMENA JONAS
228 BURNING TREE DR
SAN JOSE CA 95119-1823

If you have any questions, please call us at the telephone number shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely yours,



Ginni L. Redfern
Program Manager, AM OPS 1



February 10, 2015

CITIZENS FOR CALIFORNIA HIGH SPEED RAIL ACCOUNTABILITY
Post Office Box 881, Hanford, California 93232
frank.oliveira@me.com
559-469-6685
cchsra.org Website
@CCHSRA Twitter

CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY

770 L-Street, Suite-880
Sacramento, California 95814
Attention: **Board Members**

Regarding: RIGHT OF WAY AGENT ABUSES OF PROPERTY OWNERS IN CONSTRUCTION PACKAGES-2 & 3

Last month, at the January 13th Authority Board Meeting, Authority staff reported that claims of abuses of property owners by the Authority's Right of Way (ROW) Agents had been looked at and that Authority staff had successfully provided training to its contracted ROW staff thus mitigating the problem.

As a result of the Board's direction and its staff's quick action, property owners affected by the Authority's acquisition of their land, could rest assured that they would be treated with respect and properly compensated by the Authority for their damages in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations.

Members of the Board expressed their satisfaction with their staff's handling of the matter.

Oddly, on January-23rd, 10-days later, I attended a joint Authority, Fresno County Farm Bureau, Fresno Economic Development Corporation and County of Fresno workshop held in Laton, California. The target audience was affected property owners in the ROW, in Fresno County; between American Avenue and the Kings River.

The consensus of the audience was that most of their properties had been "Flash Appraised" without their input or knowledge. The resulting Offers rendered by the ROW Agents did not account for factors such as water delivery systems, wells, infrastructure, leases and other business agreements associated with the property to be acquired as well as the after effect on the remainder of the affected parcels and associated Agro Businesses.

The result of the Flash Appraisals are Offers that logically are grossly undervalued and do not offer proper compensate to those affected by the project. Offers in some cases were probably 100's of thousands of dollars below value. For those of you on the Board, can you imagine the government showing up at your residence or place of business and telling you that you will be removed from your property and paid tens of thousands if not 100's of thousands of dollars less than the value of your property for the good of the public?

The methodology of establishing the value of someone's property and livelihood without obtaining the information of value from those who know the nuances of their properties and businesses will not establish proper or fair compensation for the property owner and/or their tenants nor is it very respectful. You are not just buying real estate, you need to also compensate people for damaging or destroying their businesses.

We challenged this methodology of establishing compensation and your Central Valley Regional Director agreed to revisit acquisition cases where Flash Appraisals had occurred. The Regional Director also agreed to notify the affected property owners in Construction Package-2 & 3 (CP-2 & 3) about her concern.

The Regional Director also asked us to refer any Flash Appraisals cases that we were aware of directly to her for her consideration. A logical solution to an ugly situation.

Since then, we have sought out a sampling of property owners within a 5-mile strip of the 65-mile ROW and discovered that all of them had been Flash Appraised. We have attached a summary of their seven cases for your review. We shared the Sample Group with the Regional Director by email. One case happens to be north of the sample strip.

Some of the Sample Group have even been referred to the State Public Works Board (SPWB) for Resolutions of Necessity (RON) to condemn their properties because they haven't jumped fast enough for your ROW Agents and accepted their undervalued Offers.

At least two of the RON's listed on SPWB's docket for this Friday are based on Flash Appraisals. The Regional Director is aware of one of them and as of last Friday those elderly individuals had not been contacted by the Authority about their Flash Appraisals. Friday is three days from now.

Our Sample Group was even larger than what we attached to this report. Still, 100% of them were Flash Appraisals. People not listed in the attachment explained that they feared that the Authority would even lower their Offers further if they complained.

If we can easily pull a 100% Flash Appraisal Sample Group, how may Flash Appraisals have you allowed your ROW Agents to do in CP-2 & 3?

To the best of my knowledge, the Authority has not notified property owners throughout CP-2 & 3 of the offer to reconsider their Flash Appraisals and establish fair compensation for them. When will that happen? The Regional Director has reached out to some people in the Sample Group; however, I do not believe that anything has been resolved.

The Regional Director, the Board Chairman and one of your Vice Chairs have publicly assured us that property owners would be "Made Whole". What part of "Made Whole" includes stealing property for a fraction of its worth while threatening and disrespecting your victims. Yes, I said victims.

How many of the Board Members are comfortable with what I just explained to you? If you want to hear it directly from your victims and not me, their contact points are listed in the attached summary. Contact them yourselves.

Explain to us today, at this meeting, how you all are going to make your victims "Made Whole" when you know that you are making undervalued offers and forcing condemnations?

Sincerely,



Frank Oliveira, Co-Chair
Citizens for California High-Speed Rail Accountability

Attachments: Flash Appraisal Sample Group Emails

Pc: CHSRA Board Members
Governor
Select State Senators
Select US Congress Members
Media
Listed Property Owners

Flash Appraisal Sample Group emails to the Central Valley Regional Director
(We will forward the full email chains between us and your Regional Director upon your request)

January 23, 2015 Email-

Dear Diana,

Pursuant to what you told us today at the Joint Fresno County Farm Bureau, Fresno Economic Development Corporation and California High-Speed Rail Accountability workshop held in Laton, we will take you at your word that you will reevaluate the appraisal methodology used by the Authority's Right of Way (ROW) contractors who failed to include landowner's input in the formulation of the Authority's appraisal offers. Locally, we are referring to those appraisals done without landowner input as "Flash Appraisals".

We also take you at your word that you and your staff will ensure that the Authority will make every effort to properly compensate those who will be expected to surrender their property to the Authority. I am glad that finally, someone, at the Authority seems to acknowledge that without the landowner's input it is unlikely that the Authority's offers will be appropriate given that virtually every farm property that the Authority is claiming part of is actually a self contained production business and not just real estate.

We will also hold you to your word that the Authority will notify **all** of the landowners affected by Construction Package 2-3 ROW, that if they have concerns about the acquisition process, Flash Appraisals as well as other problems with the Authority's contractors, they can contact you and that you will take whatever action is appropriate to advocate for the landowners fair compensation and the least disruption to the landowner's remaining property. The notification is pointless unless you get the notification out to the landowners immediately because your ROW agents are currently pushing landowners that received Flash Appraisals to settle their offers in some cases within 30-days.

Note, that the Authority's ROW coordinator Don Grebe, is conveying to me a similar but different version of the acquisition process than what you portrayed to us at the meeting today. Mr. Grebe's portrayal of the process is as a balancing act that seems to clearly place a higher value on advancing the Authority's construction schedule than ensuring that thorough appraisals and offers are being done.

On the ground, Mr. Grebe is probably reflecting the truth, otherwise, all of these Flash Appraisals probably would not have happened. Note, that most of the landowners at the meeting today reflected that they were Flash Appraised and we see the same pattern south into Kings County.

As you noted at the meeting, a lot of people are not happy with the project, so you can expect that forces within the community will expect that you and the Authority produce the outcomes that you expressed today. Today was a good meeting and it allowed for serious real life concerns to be brought forward.

Lastly, per your direction to me at the meeting, I will start referring people that we are aware of that were subjected to Flash Appraisals to you. The first three are noted below. They are cc'd and will be waiting for you to reach out to them.

Helen Sullivan

APN 002-190-001 **FB-16-0038-1, FB-16-0038-2 & FB-16-0038-3**

APN 002-190-002 **FB-16-0039**

Contact Person- **Helen Sullivan 559-289-2452 sullypnh@wildblue.net**

Ms. Sullivan received a notice from the CHSRA advising her that the Authority wanted to acquire her property. She contacted the CHSRA and requested that the appraisal be handled after harvest season. The property in question is a producing orchard and her tenant should be involved in the process. It is a business. She sought a late 2014 appointment and never heard back from the CHSRA.

Ms. Sullivan was mailed an appraisal offer letter signed by David Predmore. The letter was sent to Ms. Sullivan's brother's PO Box and not her address or PO Box. She does not know why the CHSRA would send her documentation to her brother. Note that Ms. Sullivan and her brother do not live at the same address. Sullivan was not in the USA during this period of time and her brother signed for the appraisal package around January 5, 2015.

On 1-6-2015, after Ms. Sullivan returned from her trip Ms. Sullivan's brother advised her about the package and she picked it up on 1-8-2015.

Helen Sullivan (Continued)

On 1-9-2015, Mr. Predmore left Ms. Sullivan a voicemail reflecting that he wanted to talk to her about purchasing her property.

On 1-13-2015, Ms. Sullivan contacted Mr. Predmore and advised him that she did not think that it was fair in that the appraisal was done without her input. Mr. Predmore said that they had been having difficulty reaching Ms. Sullivan so they went ahead and completed the appraisal anyway and that if she did not respond to his letter in writing within 30 day from the date of the letter, condemnation proceeding would begin.

Ms. Sullivan tried to comply with the Authority's acquisition process and her property was appraised without her input. Hence, no consideration of her orchard infrastructure and lease agreements or tenant needs were considered in the State's appraisal of her property.

February 3, 2015 (Follow Up Email)

Dear Diana,

Helen Sullivan

APN 002-190-001 FB-16-0038-1, FB-16-0038-2 & FB-16-0038-3

APN 002-190-002 FB-16-0039

Contact Person- Helen Sullivan 559-289-2452 sullypnh@wildblue.net

Thank you for reaching out to Ms. Sullivan regarding how her ROW acquisition appraisal will be handled.

Frank & Tedra Martin

APN: 335-170-26 FB-10-0338-1 & FB-10-0338-2

Contact Person- Tedra Martin 559-834-5266 barnsnbears@gmail.com

Attached is a timeline of events that have taken place in regard to CHSRA's take of the Martin's property.

6-11-2014, The Martins received their first official letter from CHSRA stating that they would be purchasing some of their property.

7-21-2014, Mo Hammad with Hammad & Associates Inc. (ROW Agent) came to see the Martin's unannounced (no phone call, no appointment). He advised the Martin's that he was not there to make an offer he was just there for a visual inspection and wanted to hear what they had to say. They told him that their property was just not their home, it was their retirement income. Mr. Hammad told them that their property was valued at \$20,000 to \$25,000 per acre. Mr. Hammad told the Martin's that people would be coming onto their property (surveyors, appraisers, etc.) The Martins told Mr. Hammad that no one was to come onto the property without notifying the Martin's first. They found out later that the appraiser came on the property without any notification or their approval. The CHSRA knowingly trespassed on the Martin's property because the CHSRA was previously advised that they needed to secure approval before entering their private property.

11-12-2014, The Martin's received a letter with a formal offer. The letter was signed by R. Scott Beyelia (Acquisition Agent). The Martin's property was appraised without their input.

Mr. Beyelia contacted the Martin's a few days after they received Mr. Beyelia's letter to make an appointment with them. Mrs. Martin asked him if they could do this after the holidays as she had surgery scheduled for November 19th. Mr. Beyelia said no that they had a time schedule to maintain. Mrs. Martin ended up canceling her surgery because it was too much for her to deal with. Mrs. Martin also told Mr. Beyelia that the offer was not sufficient as it did not address the lost of income they would incur and the income tax that they would have to pay on the sale of the property. Mrs Martin told him that he needed to recalculate the offer.

11-17-2014, Mr. Beyelia contacted the Martin's again. Mrs Martin asked if he had recalculated the offer and he had not. The Martin's did not make an appointment with him and told him that they needed to consult their CPA and seek legal counsel.

Around 12-2-2014, James Stothing (not sure of spelling) (Acquisition Agent) called. Mr. Stothing said Mr. Beyelia was ill and he was taking over. Mrs Martin's explained what she had discussed with Mr. Beyelia about the amount of the offer not be enough to compensate them for their potential lost income and the fact that they would have to pay approximately \$30,000 in income tax for the sale of the property that she thought the CHSRA should be responsible to pay considering they were being forced to destroy their productive property asset. They did not meet with Mr. Stothing.

Frank & Tedra Martin (Continued)

12-11-2014, A third agent called the Martins and said he was taking over because Mr. Beyelia had been in an accident. The new agent's name was Konstatine Akhren (not sure of the spelling). Mr. Akhren did not give Mrs. Martin his phone number. Mr. Akhren did give Mrs. Martin a fax number. She sent him two letters that her CPA had prepared that showed their lost income and the amount of income tax they would have to pay for the sale of the property. Mr. Akhren told Mrs. Martin that their 30-days were up on the following day (December 12th) and that he would be filing a **Resolution of Necessity** to take the property from the Martins. Mrs. Martin advised Mr. Akhren that he should not threaten senior citizens.

Mrs. Martin notes that there is nothing in the main body of the documentation that they received from CHSRA that reflects any 30-day deadlines nor did the CHSRA representatives verbally advise them about this 30-day deadline until Mr. Akhren told them they had one day to respond.

Mr. Akhren also told the Martin's that CHSRA had already surveyed their property and that there were now survey flags on their property reflecting what the CHSRA is taking. According to Mrs. Martin, at no time did anyone from the CHSRA contact them for permission to enter their private property nor advise them that they would be on the property to appraise or survey or any other necessary procedures they needed to complete.

The Martin's have not been able to locate any survey flagging on their property which begs the question "Did the CHSRA even look at the Martin's property when they did whatever they did?" "Did they trespass and survey someone else's property?"

Apparently, the Martins have neighbors that have similar experiences with CHSRA's ROW agents.

The Martins have tried to comply with the Authority's acquisition process and their property was appraised without their input. Hence, no consideration of their farming infrastructure and business agreements and/or tenant needs were considered in the State's appraisal of their property.

January 29, 2015 (Follow Up Email)-

Dear Diana,

I just found out that Martin's noted below have been referred to the SPWB for a Resolution of Necessity (RON). They have been given a short window to address the SPWB which we both know amounts to a rubber stamped RON being issued to condemn their property.

Are you going to follow through with your good faith promises made in Laton? This is not an unknown case, you were advised about it a week ago.

February 3, 2015 (Follow Up Email)-

Frank & Tedra Martin

APN: 335-170-26 FB-10-0338-1 & FB-10-0338-2

Contact Person- Tedra Martin 559-834-5266 barnsnbears@gmail.com

Urgent Action is Needed

No one from the Authority has contacted the Martins about the Flash Appraisal that was done on their property without their input. You and the Authority are aware that the Authority has at this point intentionally undervalued the Martin's property.

You and the Authority are aware that the Martins are trying to participate in the appraisal of their property.

The Martin's situation requires your immediate attention because they have been noticed by the SPWB, that at the Authority's request, the SPWB will be executing a Resolution of Necessity to condemn their property on February-13th. Refer to- http://spwb.ca.gov/includes/documents/2_1310-DayNotice.pdf

The Martins are willing to meet with the Authority's staff about this matter. Will someone from the Authority be properly appraising the Martin's property to actually establish the Fair Market Value of their property?

Considering what we know about how this case has been handled by the Authority, will the Martin's property be channeled for condemnation by the SPWB on February-13th?

I am including the Chairperson Designee of the SPWB in on this conversation.

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John S. Bettencourt

APN: 002-190-006 FB-16-0030-1, FB-16-0030-2, FB-16-0030-3, FB-16-0030-4 & FB-160030-5

APN: 002-190-005 FB-16-0041-1 & FB-16-0041-2

APN: 014-020-016 FB-16-0044-1

Contact Person- John Bettencourt jrbfarming@gmail.com

The Bettencourt's received a letter from the Authority reflecting that the Authority was going to acquire Mr. Bettencourt's property. The Bettencourt's attempted to set up a meeting with to appraise their property with your staff on 12-17-2014 or 12-18-2014.

On 12-18-2014, the Bettencourt's were told that Craig Owyang had already completed the appraisal of their property without their input. The Bettencourts apparently have a letter from Mr. Owyang indicating that he wanted to appraise their property by the end of January-2015. The Bettencourt's have been operating with that date in mind and are shocked that Mr. Owyang appraised their property without their input when they were trying to participate in the process.

Note, someone just contacted the Bettencourts and said that they wanted add Mr. Bettencourt's input to the appraisal or to reappraise the property with his input. That conversation has just started and hopefully should end in the reappraisal of his property with his input and the input of those parties associated with the property that would be affected by the State's plans.

Mr. Bettencourt tried to comply with the Authority's acquisition process and his property was appraised by the Authority without his input. Hence, no consideration of his farming infrastructure and business agreements or tenant needs were considered in the State's appraisal of his property.

February 3, 2015 (Follow Up Email)-

Thank you for your staff reaching out to the Bettencourts. Hopefully, the Bettencourt's input will be incorporated into the Authority's Fair Market Value Offer on their property as opposed to the Flash Appraisal that was done on their property without their input.

There is an additional problem with the Bettencourt's ROW Acquisition Flash Offer which is causing confusion. Intermixed with documentation about their property, appears to be documentation pertaining to another landowner north of the Bettencourts. This makes reading and understanding the Flash Appraisal that the Bettencourts did receive unreasonably complicated to understand.

This possess some questions-

Will the Authority properly appraise the Bettencourt's property and include their input?

Would you like the Bettencourts to disassemble your Offer package, separate the other landowner's appraisal information and Offer and deliver those documents to the other landowner for the Authority?

Did the other landowner receive an Offer from the Authority?

Has the other landowner been threatened with condemnation for lack of action on his Offer that apparently he might not have received?

The other landowner is-

Flood Trust Property

APN- 002-120-036 FB-16-0008

APN- 002-150-020

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January 27, 2015 Email

Dear Diana,

Another one for you to consider.

Thank you for your assistance and care in this matter.

Gloria Coelho

APN: 016-070-036 FB-16-0151

APN: 016-070-038 FB-16-0146

Contact Person- **Gloria Coelho** gcoelho5050@yahoo.com 559-381-5562

Ms. Coelho's property is what is referred to as "Open Ground" in the Ag community. Crops are planted and harvested annually on the property.

Ms. Coelho received a letter from the Authority dated August 22, 2014. The letter reflected that the Authority wanted to appraise her property for acquisition for the California High-Speed Rail Project. She did not respond to the letter.

In late October or early November, Ms. Coelho received a phone call from Mr. Daryl Duncan, Appraiser, saying he wanted to meet with her. Ms. Coelho advised Mr. Duncan that she was planning an extended trip out of the area in the near future.

Ms. Coelho met on November 11, 2014 with Mr. Duncan at the property. Ms. Coelho's leases her property and her lessee was present during the meeting. Mr. Duncan advised them that they would receive the Authority's Offer sometime in the Spring-2015.

Ms. Coelho found her November 11th meeting with Mr. Duncan to be vague and even today is uncertain as to if their meeting was just a meeting or was her actual appraisal.

On December 18, 2014, Ms. Coelho received her Offer from the Authority but she was out of town for a prolonged period as already noted. The Offer was delivered to her home.

Mr. Bill Kouris, ROW Agent, left messages for Ms. Coelho on December-15th and the 22nd but again Ms. Coelho was out of the area during this period and Mr. Duncan was aware of that.

Ms. Coelho returned home on January 4, 2015 and read the Offer package. She called Mr. Kouris, on January-6th, the second business day following her return.

She told Mr. Kouris that she was not expecting this Offer at this time based on what Mr. Duncan had told her before she left on her trip.

Ms. Coelho told Mr. Kouris that she needed to seek legal counsel and a private appraisal. They discussed that because of the high-speed rail project; attorneys and private appraisers were becoming difficult to schedule with.

Ms. Coelho scheduled an appointment with her attorney on January 19, 2015.

Mr. Kouris called Ms. Coelho on January-14th and she advised him about her January-19th appointment with her legal counsel.

Mr. Kouris noticed Ms. Coelho that he would be monitoring her progress on the matter every week.

Ms. Coelho advised Mr. Kouris that she had realized after her meeting with Mr. Duncan in November-2014, an irrigation pipeline would have to be moved and that she would be getting prices on that.

Mr. Kouris told Ms. Coelho that he was going to suggest to the Authority to have her property lines moved.

Ms. Coelho has scheduled a private appraisal of her property. It will happen on February 3, 2015.

Ms. Coelho is concerned about her fulfillment of her responsibilities to her lessee. She is also concerned with the lessee fulfilling the terms of the lease because she also is financing the lessee's operation.

Gloria Coelho (Continued)

A serious issue regarding the property is unfolding. Should Ms. Coelho's lessee plant cotton this year on the ground that he has farmed in the past acknowledging that the Authority may acquire part of the property before the crop is harvested in November-2015. The lessee needs to start preparing the field for the crop now. This action involves planning, investment and labor.

Mr. Kouris advised Ms. Coelho that she would be receiving some sort of notice in about 2-months and he told her that he did not want her to be alarmed by that. Ms. Coelho is unclear as to what this "notice" will pertain.

Ms. Coelho feels like it is harassment to be threatened by someone who is threatening to call her every week. She has made a good faith effort to communicate with the Authority and has demonstrated the same since November-2014. Ms. Coelho points out that Mr. Kouris did not follow through with his threat this week.

Ms. Coelho is working with the Authority's contracted staff and would like her property properly valued including issues such as severance damages and loss of business good will. Ms. Coelho would also like a clear defined documented schedule of the Authority's expectations to follow and to share with her legal counsel.

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January 29, 2015 Email-

Diana,

Here is another Flash Appraisal heading toward condemnation for your consideration.

Stan Felipe

APN 014-060-022 **FB-16-0049**

APN 014-060-034 **FB-16-0045**

APN 014-060-044 **FB-16-0050**

Contact Person- **Stan Felipe** tfrone@unwiredbb.com 559-381-1609

Mr. Felipe farms multiple parcels of ground in northeastern Kings County. He farms both orchards and open ground (annual crops).

In early December-2014, Mr. Felipe received an Offer from the California High-Speed Rail Authority to purchase part of two of his parcels. The Offer was hand delivered by Mr. Rick Beauchamp, ROW Agent, before that, Mr. Felipe had not had any contact from the Authority by mail, telephone or in person about the matter.

In mid December-2014, Mr. Felipe received another Offer by mail regarding his third parcel.

Mr. Felipe was not involved in the Authority's appraisal of any of his property or even aware that the Authority wanted to appraise his property before receiving the first Offer.

Mr. Felipe did not respond to the Offer or the telephone calls from the Authority that followed the Offer due to the holidays, a death in the family and the sheer surprise that someone had appraised his property without even contacting him.

At the end of December-2014, on Christmas Eve, Mr. Felipe sought out legal counsel to understand what the Offers meant and what his rights and obligations were in the matter.

Mr. Felipe commissioned that attorney to correspond with the Authority about his not being part of the process to value his property. Mr. Felipe's attorney is drafting a letter to Mr. Beauchamp.

This week, Mrs. Felipe received a telephone call from the Authority reflecting that their properties are being channeled to the State Public Works Board for a Resolution Of Necessity (RON) to begin condemnation proceedings.

It does not seem to be appropriate to condemn Mr. & Mrs. Felipe's property when they have not been allowed to participate in the process leading up to the Offers and without their input, it is illogical to believe that the Offers properly capture the value of his property and associated business.

What was done leading up to the Offers being issued and the speed at which this case has moved through the holiday season to the RON being sought is disrespectful at best and certainly does not reflect the Authority's responsibility to cause the least Private Injury.

February 10, 2015

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Stan Felipe (Continued)

Mr. Felipe's property has not been properly valued due to how this case has been handled. Mr. Felipe is willing to participate in the proper appraisal of his property.

February 3, 2015 (Follow Up Email):

Dear Diana,

No one has contacted Mr. Felipe about this matter.

Mr. Felipe's last conversation with anyone from the Authority's acquisition process leads him to believe that the Authority will be condemning his property without his input as to the value of the property. He believes this because that is what your contracted ROW told his wife.

Are you folks really going to condemn his property when he is simply is asking the Authority to properly consider the value of his property that the Authority going to acquire?

Based on what you said at the Laton ROW Workshop on 1-23-2015, you and the Authority would be correcting these types of acquisition problems and that you would be reaching out to everyone in CP2 & 3 to ask them to notify you if they have experienced similar problems. It appears that you haven't reached out to very many people in the alignment, if any.

There are 30+ condemnation requests being reviewed by the SPWB on February-13th. Shouldn't someone be checking to see if those property owners had their properties properly appraised before the SPWB does their Resolutions of Necessity?

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February 5, 2015 Email

Dear Diana,

Here is another Flash Appraisal for your consideration.

Stanley Crawshaw

APN 002-120-031 FB-16-0006

Contact Person- Stanley Crawshaw 559-584-3717

Mr. Crawshaw owns open farm land. He leases his ground. His tenant grows corn and other crops on the property.

Mr. Crawshaw told me that last summer he received a letter from the Authority reflecting that the Authority wanted to acquire part of his property for inclusion in the California High-Speed Train Project. He took the position that the Authority's representatives would call him. Nothing further happened until January-2015.

Late January, Mr. Crawshaw received a completed Appraisal of his property with an Offer. The problem with the appraisal is simply that the ROW Agent factored none of Mr. Crawshaw's concerns into the value of the ROW being taken or the impacts to his remaining property. Mr. Crawshaw's cost to cure concerns like what happens to his residence, wells & irrigation pipelines were never considered as things of value.

No consideration was given to the impacts of the acquisition on Mr. Crawshaw's lease agreement or impact to his tenant.

Since Mr. Crawshaw received his undervalued Offer, he has received several phone calls and one visit from a ROW agent named Julie Wood. He reflects that Ms. Wood has been pushing him to accept the offer and has given him no indication that he will every receive a proper valuation of his property.

If the Authority wishes to give Mr. Crawshaw Fair Market Value for what the Authority is planning to do to him, perhaps the Authority should include him in the process beyond just expecting him to sign what every is forced in front of him.

Can you contact Mr. Crawshaw to mitigate this matter?

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February 6, 2015 Email

Dear Diana,

Here is another Flash Appraisal for your consideration.

John Teixeira

APN 014-090-022 FB-16-0140

APN 014-090-024 FB-16-0069

Contact Point- John Teixeira johnt@unwiredbb.com

Mr. Teixeira farms corn, alfalfa, almonds & walnuts.

Last summer he received a letter from the Authority reflecting that it was going to acquire parts of his property for the California High-Speed Train Project. He heard nothing more from the Authority until late December-2014, right before Christmas, when a ROW agent showed up at his house with an Offer package to acquire parts of his property. The Right of Way (ROW) agent aggressively insisted that Mr. Teixeira act on the Offer quickly.

Since then, Mr. Teixeira has received several phone calls from ROW agents urging him to accept the Offer and he has been visited by a different ROW agent. The second ROW agent simply told Mr. Teixeira to get his own appraisal if he disagreed with the Offer.

Mr. Teixeira notes that it says clearly in the Offer that no effort was made to contact him when the inspection of his property occurred in September-2014 without his knowledge. This raises another question...did the Authority's Appraiser trespass on Mr. Teixeira's farm on behalf of the Authority?

The appraisal, like the other appraisals that I have been referring to you was a Flash Appraisal completed without Mr. Teixeira's input.

The appraisal did not account for the damages that the project's ROW causes to Mr. Teixeira's business of producing food and fiber. Most glaringly, Mr. Teixeira's irrigation water delivery system was not properly accounted for but would have been if he had been included in the appraisal process.

Another ridiculous assumption noted in the Appraisal was that one of Mr. Teixeira's Ag wells could be replaced for under \$40,000. New wells and pumps around here commonly cost between \$100,000 and \$150,000 and in some cases have a 1-year waiting list. We know, we have addressed three well failures over the past 12-months. To expect that Mr. Teixeira's Ag well could be replaced for under \$40,000, is an example of a process divorced from reality.

Farming requires water. Obviously, those who understand how to appraise Agro Business operations would have not proceeded forward with this initial offer without accounting for Mr. Teixeira's need to move water across his property and the other aspects of his business.

Mr. Teixeira now is receiving pressure from ROW agents to accept the Authority's undervalued Offer on his property to accommodate the Authority's expedited schedule.

Would someone please allow Mr. Teixeira input in the initial valuation of his property so that he is properly compensated at the end of the day?