

August 30, 2007

California High Speed Rail Authority
925 L Street, Suite 1425
Sacramento, Ca 95814

Dear Rail Authority,

My name is council member Carl Pollard of Merced. I am here today to strongly urge you to reaffirm your decision for keeping Merced as a rail stop. As a long time rail supporter my self and other Council members from Merced have sent letters to the governor and the legislature recommending the implementation of High Speed Rail. I also strongly encourage the rail authority to use Castle Air Base for the construction and maintenance facility.

PHM5-1

My personal reasons for supporting High Speed Rail are the following.

1. The High-Speed rail needs to serve the Valley.
2. Passenger rail needs to be a priority for the valley in terms of the connectivity that a High speed rail system will provide.
3. Land use patterns are critical if High speed rail is to succeed. I believe that the rail must try to follow as many existing corridors as possible and practical. I also believe that blighted areas such as our base could be restored to its former grandeur if it were transformed into a construction, maintenance and passenger facility.

PHM5-2

Sincerely,



Merced City Council Member
Carl Pollard