

Dear Quentin and fellow CHSRMembers:

I write this letter to express my support of the High Speed Rail route through Pacheco Pass and to voice my strong opposition to the proposed Altamont Pass route that would destroy part of and jeopardize the continued existence of the rest of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

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The San Francisco Bay Refuge was the first urban National Wildlife Refuge established in the United States. Since 1974, it has been dedicated to preserving and enhancing wildlife habitat, protecting migratory birds, protecting threatened and endangered species while providing opportunities for wildlife-oriented recreation and nature study for the surrounding communities.

The depth of our knowledge about the environment has increased since the Refuge was first established, as has our knowledge of the grave consequences that breaches to environmental integrity bring our Bay Area community and the world. The destructive impact of the Altamont Pass route slicing through the reserve, whether by track or bridge, could very well be immeasurable.

Although I consider important the transportation needs the Altamont Pass option would attempt to address, I am confident that alternative, attainable solutions can be identified and developed. We have no alternative to preserving our natural resources. They are either preserved or lost forever.

The Refuge bears my name in recognition of my efforts to protect the sensitive wetlands in the South San Francisco Bay. The wetlands were worth the years of legislative efforts needed in the past to preserve and expand the area. The wetlands are worth protecting now.

I strongly urge the rejection of the Altamont Pass route and support the preservation of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge insured by the Pacheco Pass route.

Thank you for considering this letter.

With warm personal regards,

Don Edwards
Member of Congress, 1963-1995