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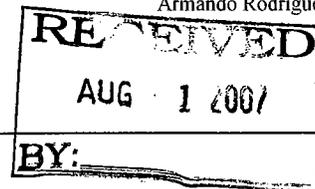
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July 27, 2007

California High-Speed Rail Authority, EIR/EIS Comments
925 L Street, Suite 1425
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Preliminary Comments - Bay Area to Central Valley High-Speed Train Program EIR/EIS

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have an immediate, preliminary comment on the Bay Area to Central Valley High-Speed Train Program EIR/EIS. The study recently released for public comment outlines the various alternatives for the Altamont and Pacheco alignments, but does not include an analysis of regional rail ridership for the Sacramento-Stockton-Pleasanton-San Francisco-San Jose corridor. This is a fatal deficiency, and must be corrected. Failure to include these data (and an analysis of these data) makes the EIR/EIS document inadequate.

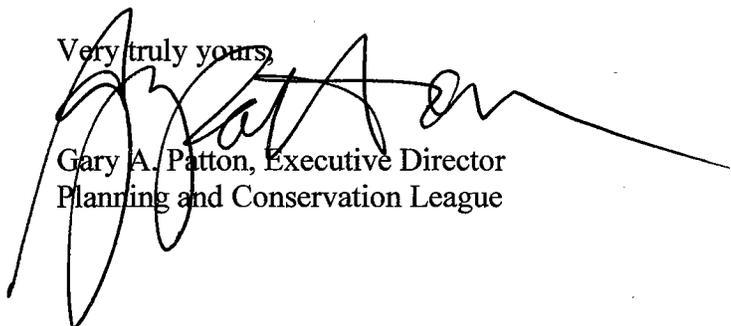
Analyzing commuter/regional rail ridership in the Sacramento-San Jose/San Francisco corridor is essential to this study, because there would likely be on the order of millions of annual riders in the corridor utilizing commuter rail options. Increasing commuter rail in the corridor can lead to a significant reduction in traffic congestion and air pollution. The impacts of commuter rail MUST be analyzed and taken into account as a High Speed Train alignment is selected.

As it turns out, MTC is in the process of developing the data needed. If they weren't (or if for some reason they don't), the High Speed Rail Authority would have to develop the data independently, to prepare an environmental document that would comply with the requirements of CEQA and NEPA. The bottom line is that the EIR/EIS for the Bay Area to Central Valley High-Speed Train Program must include a review and analysis of the data on potential commuter rail ridership.

This letter is our official request that you withdraw the current draft, and then reissue an amended draft, for public review and comment, when the appropriate data are included and analyzed as part of the environmental analysis that CEQA and NEPA require.

Thank you for your attention to this serious concern.

Very truly yours,


Gary A. Patton, Executive Director
Planning and Conservation League

cc: Interested Persons