



Press Release

CONTACT: Lisa Marie Alley
916-384-9026 (w)
916-212-8108 (c)
lisa.alley@hsr.ca.gov



DATE: January 13, 2014

Tom Richards Re-Appointed to California High-Speed Rail Authority Board of Directors

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) Board of Directors Chair Dan Richard issued the following statement today upon Governor Jerry Brown’s re-appointment of Tom Richards to the Authority’s Board of Directors:

“We greatly appreciated Governor Brown re-appointing Tom Richards to the Authority’s Board of Directors. Tom has been a stalwart presence on the Board and has represented Fresno and the Central Valley with passion and vitality,” said Chair Dan Richard. “Not only does he bring a much-valued background to the project, his re-appointment also underscores the role of California high-speed rail in creating jobs and economic development in the Central Valley.”

Tom Richards is Chair and CEO of The Penstar Group, a Fresno-based real estate investment, development and construction company. His projects have extended from Santa Barbara to the Central Valley, from Sacramento to Bakersfield and in the Inland Empire from Corona to Victorville.

Richards works with local government leaders to address homelessness issues in both the City and County of Fresno. He chaired the Planning Council that prepared the 10 Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness, sits on the Leadership Council for the same and chairs the Fresno Mayor’s Fresno First Steps Home Initiative. He was a leader in an initiative to fund, develop and construct a hospitality home in support of families of patients at Community Regional Medical Center’s Level 1 Trauma and Burn Center. The first phase of Terry’s House, which includes 20 suites, completed in 2010 and is named for his brother Terry Richards.

Richards is a past member or director of the Business Advisory Council for Valley Public Television, the 21st District Agricultural Association and Fresno Unified School District’s Measure K Oversight Committee. He currently is a board member of Fresno’s Property Based Improvement District, Vice Chair of Fresno Chaffee Zoo Corporation and Chair of both the Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board and Premier Valley Bank.

Richards is a licensed real estate broker and general contractor. He lives in Fresno.

About California High-Speed Rail Authority

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) is responsible for planning, designing, building and operation of the first high-speed rail system in the nation. California high-speed rail will connect the mega-regions of the state, contribute to economic development and a cleaner environment, create jobs and preserve agricultural and protected lands. By 2029, the system will run from San Francisco to the Los Angeles basin in under three hours at speeds capable of over 200 miles per hour. The system will eventually extend to Sacramento and San Diego, totaling 800 miles with up to 24 stations. In addition, the Authority is working with regional partners to implement a statewide rail modernization plan that will invest billions of dollars in local and regional rail lines to meet the state’s 21st century transportation needs. To learn more visit the Authority’s website at <http://www.hsr.ca.gov> and join us on [facebook.com/CaliforniaHighSpeedRail](https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaHighSpeedRail) and follow us at twitter.com/cahsra

#####