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August 30, 2007

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

Dear Chair Petrillo and Members of the Board:

I am pleased to submit this letter of support for the Draft Program EIR/EIS and the analysis that identified high speed trains as the preferred system alternative to address future transit needs in California.

PHM2-1

As you may know, the University of California, Merced opened in the fall of 2005 as the tenth campus of the University of California and the only research university located in the Central Valley. The campus began its third academic year this week, serving about 1,900 students. Over the next three decades the campus will grow to an ultimate size of 25,000 students. In that same period the Central Valley is expected to be one of the fastest growing regions in our state, growing at over twice the rate of the rest of the state. High speed trains would provide greatly enhanced access to the campus for students, faculty, staff, colleagues from other universities, and other visitors. In addition, high speed rail service would permit students from both Southern and Northern California to commute from their homes to UC Merced, an option that would result in significant cost savings and would allow greater access to a UC education for students not living in proximity to the campus. In addition, the availability of high speed rail service for UC Merced students would create ridership and a commute pattern that would carry into post-collegiate life. High speed rail service also would contribute significantly to overall economic growth and job creation in the Central Valley.

PHM2-2

Last, but also very important, is the benefit to Central Valley air quality challenges. Having a high speed train service would dramatically reduce the number of automobiles currently used for commuting and social purposes, thus significantly impacting the valley's air quality which is a major health concern for our residents.

UC Merced commented in 2004 on the alignment and EIR/EIS issues. And today, given the information on the environmental considerations identified in the Draft Program EIR/EIS, cost projections for the various routes, and ridership potential,

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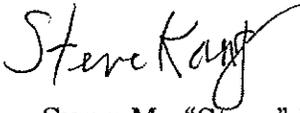
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the UC Merced campus still supports a Diablo route with a hub and route stop at Castle Aviation and Development Center (formerly Castle Air Force Base). In addition, UCM continues to encourage the Commission to support locating a maintenance facility at the Castle site.

PHM2-3
Cont.

Thank you very much for consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Sung-Mo "Steve" Kang
Chancellor

cc: Congressman Dennis Cardoza
Senator Jeff Denham
Assembly Member Cathleen Galgiani
Merced County Supervisor Kathleen Crookham
Merced County Supervisor John Pedrozo
Merced County Executive Officer Tatum