



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

October 25, 2007

To Gentlewomen and Gentlemen Andrews, Crane, Diridon, Florez, Kopp, Lindsey, Morshed, Pringle, Schenk, and Stapleton,

I know there are many individuals who are writing very good letters about the EIR and the proposed routes for the High Speed Rail corridor. My concerns are of a different nature because when all is said and done, EIR's can and historically have been ignored.

I034-1

I attended the public hearing in Merced, California on August 30, 2007. I was dismayed when Dr. Lee Boese, Jr. who is obviously on a first name basis with the HSRA Board Members jokingly referred to the Pacheco Pass Route as the new Rod Diridon High Speed Express. Mr. Diridon reacted very positively with a huge grin on his face and seemed to really appreciate Dr. Boese's remarks. I find their behavior appalling.

I just hope this isn't how you make your choice on routes: who can be flattered the most and who stands to make the most money.

I034-2

I have had an extremely unpleasant past experience with Dr. Boese and his lack of integrity in a public forum which I will not comment on. I might also add that very few people in Merced want the Pacheco Pass Route unless they think that by doing so, a maintenance spur will be built at Castle Air Force Base in Atwater. It wouldn't surprise me to hear that these individuals will be benefitting financially by this arrangement and that is why they are promoting the Pacheco Route.

I am re-submitting my comments at the Merced meeting. This was my testimony:

"I am a great proponent of High Speed Rail. My husband and I went to Italy in June where we rode some of the best trains in Europe if not the world. It is such a pleasure to jump on a train and not have to worry about driving. You can sit, stand or walk. You can eat, read or sleep. And the view is always fascinating.

I034-3

I am originally from the East Bay Area but I have lived in Merced for 25 years. Because many of my family still live in the Bay Area, I have driven the Altamont Pass countless times. I have also driven the Pacheco Pass on many trips to the coast.

I034-4

It seems so obvious which route should be selected. **ALTAMONT!** The cutaway through the Coast Range is huge, there is already a rail corridor and more Valley towns will be served by choosing that route.

Another reason I am a proponent of the Altamont is that there are far fewer animals and habitat that will be disrupted because so much traffic is already there.

I034-4
Cont.

The only reason Pacheco is being considered is because of special interest groups wanting to make a buck. Lots of bucks. But that reason just isn't good enough, especially when it excludes all of the communities from Merced north to Sacramento and west to San Francisco. There is just no guarantee that Merced will be included in the Pacheco plan so why endorse it?

I034-5

Please endorse the ALTAMONT. The safest and smartest choice.”

I034-6

Sincerely,



Annette Allsup
974 Wyoming Dr.
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 723-5152