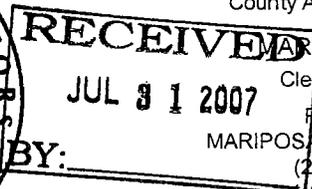


Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

District 1 BRAD ABORN
 District 2 LYLE TURPIN
 District 3 JANET BIBBY
 District 4 DIANNE FRITZ
 District 5 BOB PICKARD



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July 13, 2007

California High Speed Rail Authority
 ATTN: Judge Quentin Kopp
 925 L St., Suite 1425
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Hearing Process on "Draft Bay" Area to Central Valley HST Program EIR/EIS

Dear Judge Kopp:

Mariposa County is the newest member of the San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee (SJVRC) and, as such, we are very concerned about the plans and implementation of future high speed rail transportation.

L001-1

As we progress through the planning stage for the high-speed rail route between Los Angeles, through the San Joaquin Valley, to San Francisco, we are approaching a very critical decision point regarding the route to traverse the Diablo Mountain Range into the San Francisco Bay area and the city of San Francisco.

L001-2

Historically, Altamont Pass has been recognized by most as the preferred route as compared to Pacheco Pass to the south. The Altamont route offers a shorter distance between Los Angeles and San Francisco and offers high speed service to a greater number of passengers. Additionally, the Altamont route will allow more San Joaquin Valley cities to be served by high speed rail. By contrast, the Pacheco route will be longer through more rugged terrain and will enter the South Bay area cities, which are in very close proximity to each other. High speed rail will have to compete with other established forms of surface transportation such as BART and commuter rail service, while being unable to attain a significant speed advantage. The southern route will not address service beyond Fresno, eliminating the cities of Merced, Modesto and Stockton, in addition to many of the vacation destinations in the Sierras such as Yosemite National Park, which one day may be connected by intermountain rail.

L001-3

At the June 27th HSRA Meeting in San Carlos, a list of five hearing sites on the draft EIR were presented, which included only Bay Area cities. During this meeting a request was made by Chair John Pedrozo of the Merced County Board of Supervisors to conduct an EIR hearing in the central valley. Dan Leavitt, HSRA Deputy Director, gave a verbal confirmation to schedule an additional meeting in Merced on August 30, 2007.

L001-4

Although the Merced meeting is welcome, if a true measure of public sentiment is to be received, the HSRA should consider hearings in more San Joaquin Valley cities including (but certainly not limited to) Bakersfield, Fresno, Modesto and Stockton, keeping in mind that the Bay Area sites are in close proximity to each other, while the San Joaquin Valley sites are not. Of the six meetings currently scheduled, only one is outside the tight knit group of cities in the Bay Area.

L001-4
cont.

The southern section of the high speed rail system offers unique challenges. Bakersfield to Los Angeles via Tehachapi, the high desert cities of Lancaster and Palmdale, Saugus, Newhall, San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles all have a vested interested in the entire HSR route. Palmdale is a future site for an International Airport, which will serve much of the Los Angeles area, bringing more passengers into the high speed rail system. The high desert area has grown considerably and that growth will continue well into the future. The route will include the San Fernando Valley and continue on to Los Angeles. All of these population centers along the HSR route have a stake in what we propose along the entire route.

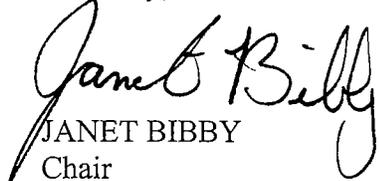
L001-5

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors believes that public comment should include all the areas along the HSR line. It's been over two years since Los Angeles has had a public hearing. The high desert communities should certainly be included also. After the public input process is completed and fairly assessed, we believe that the choice between Altamont and Pacheco will show that Altamont is by far the best and only choice to complete the run into the Bay Area. With this outcome, we strongly believe that the High Speed Rail will become the grand system where all communities will have had the ability to have a say in its development and that future generations will enjoy the high speed rail benefits within the state of California.

L001-6

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to participating in the development of the high speed rail system.

Sincerely,



JANET BIBBY

Chair

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

JB/BA/MJ

cc: Daniel Leavitt, Deputy Director, California High Speed Rail Authority

cc-

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