



CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY

Mr. William O'Brien
1010 Tenth Street, Suite 6500
Modesto, CA 95354

July 11, 2007

CORRESPONDENCE 1
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RE: DRAFT BAY AREA TO CENTRAL VALLEY HIGH-SPEED TRAIN PROGRAM
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT / ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Dear: William O'Brien

I am pleased to announce the release of the Draft Bay Area to Central Valley High-Speed Train Program Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS). The enclosed Summary chapter identifies key findings. Please contact us should you require a CD ROM copy of the document. With California's persistent congestion and growing demand for intercity travel, the high-speed train is an attractive solution to meet future transportation needs.

A Statewide Program EIR/EIS was certified in November 2005 and was the first phase of a tiered environmental review process for the proposed California high-speed train system (HST system) planned to connect the major metropolitan areas of the state. The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority), with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), has prepared a Program EIR/EIS that further examines the San Francisco Bay Area to Central Valley region as the second part of programmatic analysis. This Program EIR/EIS generally describes the environmental impacts of a proposed HST system within the broad corridor between and including the Altamont Pass and Pacheco Pass. This Draft Program EIR/EIS describes no-project and HST alternatives (network alternatives, alignment alternatives, and station location options), and identifies potential impacts, benefits and mitigation strategies.

The next step in the process is to receive and consider comments on the Draft Program EIR/EIS. The Authority and FRA invite you and your staff to attend the public hearings that have been scheduled to receive comments from the public and public agencies on the Draft Program EIR/EIS and the HST alternatives it discusses. In addition, the results of the environmental studies may be reviewed at the hearings. Each hearing is scheduled from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, with public testimony beginning at 4:15 PM. All public hearings are wheelchair accessible. Below is a list of hearing dates and locations.

- San Francisco: August 23, 2007 – San Francisco City Hall, Board Chambers, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place,
- San Jose: August 24, 2007 – San Jose City Hall, City Council Chambers, 200 East Santa Clara Street
- Livermore: August 27, 2007 – Livermore City Council Chambers, 3575 Pacific Avenue
- Oakland: August 28, 2007 – Oakland City Hall, City Council Chambers, 1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, 2nd Floor
- Gilroy: August 29, 2007 – Gilroy City Hall, City Council Chambers, 7351 Rosanna Street
- Merced: August 30, 2007 – Merced County Administration Building, Board Chambers, 2222 M Street, 3rd Floor

During the comment period, written comments may be submitted to the California High-Speed Rail Authority, EIR/EIS Comments, 925 L Street, Suite 1425, Sacramento, CA 95814 or you may visit www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov to comment online. **Comments must be received by September 28, 2007.**

Should you have any questions or should you plan to attend one of the scheduled public hearings to provide testimony, please call the Authority at: (916) 324-1541.

Sincerely,

Mehdi Morshed
Executive Director

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE
FROM YOUR CLERK