



February 3, 2010

Jeff Grover Chairman, Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors 1010 10th St, Suite 6500 Modesto, Ca 95354

SUBJECT: High Speed Rail

Dear Chair Grover,

The Greater Merced High Speed Rail Committee has filed an Expression of Interest to the California High Speed Rail Authority to locate the Heavy Maintenance Facility (HMF) in Merced County. The Greater Merced High Speed Rail Committee selected two sites to submit to the California High Speed Rail Committee, in order to be more competitive depending upon the rail alignment selected for the High Speed Rail line. The preferred site is the former Castle Air Force Base located on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe line. The proposed locations are the most northern sites presented to the Authority to locate their Heavy Maintenance Facility. The location of both Merced County sites will allow your citizens easy access to new well paying jobs that will benefit the entire northern San Joaquin Valley communities reduce our unemployment. The Heavy Maintenance Facility will employ 1,500 with the potential of another 3,000 indirect jobs being generated by firms interested in supplying the HMF with parts and services they will not have on site.

Besides benefiting our northern San Joaquin Valley region with additional jobs and opportunities for manufacturers, a HMF located in Merced County would also increase the likelihood that the Merced to Sacramento segment of the California High Speed Rail would be constructed in addition to funding provided for improvements to connecting commuter services.

We ask for you support in the form of a letter or resolution that will promote Merced County as the best location for placing a High Speed Rail HMF.

In addition, last week the Obama Administration announced that California is going to receive \$2,349,400,000 of the \$8 billion in stimulus funding for high-speed train development under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This is only half of the amount requested by the California High Speed Rail representatives which means some of the segments of high speed rail lines may not be built at this time, possibly leaving the Merced to Sacramento segment to be built years later. We believe it's important that we all communicate to the California High Speed Rail Authority that these ARRA funds be used to build track for the segment north of Fresno. Your efforts can make a difference.

John Pedrozo / Supervisor, District 1 County of Merced Bill Spriggs

Mayor

City of Merced