

*Michael Austin*

*358 W Nortstar Dr  
Hanford CA 93230*

January 18, 2014

235530

The Honorable Cynthia T. Brown  
Chief, Section of Administration  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E. Street, S.W., Room 100  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
February 26, 2014  
Part of  
Public Record



**Re: California High Speed Rail Authority Petition for Exemption of Fresno to Bakersfield HST Section (Finance Docket No. 35724 (Sub-No. 1))**

Dear Ms. Brown,

On September 26, 2013 the California High Speed Rail Authority (Authority) petitioned the Surface Transportation Board (STB) for an exemption to construct a section of the California High Speed Rail Project (HSR Project) from Fresno to Bakersfield. Later the STB determined on December 4, 2013 to deny the exemption and extend the comment period for the public to December 24, 2013. Upon several requests the STB graciously granted the public another comment period which extended to February 14, 2013. During this period the public is granted the ability to provide comments and concerns to the STB concerning any exemption request that the Authority has requested or may request in the future.

In the last decision that was issued on December 20 2013, the STB requested interested parties to establish their intent to participate in the above subject proceeding. Please accept this letter as a notice of my intent to participate in the above referenced proceeding.

Please feel free to send any notifications to the following address:

Name Mike Austin  
Street Address 358 W Northstar Dr  
City, State IP Hanford, CA 93230

Again, as a citizen of California, I appreciate the willingness of the STB to grant the public more time to have a dialogue regarding the HSR Project. With this notice it is my intention to participate and stay informed on the process ahead. I also ask that the STB hold hearings in California such that the public has the opportunity to convey critical and important information before any decisions are made.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Austin". The signature is fluid and cursive.