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March 7, 2014

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
March 7, 2014
Part of
Public Record

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

Dear Ms. Brown,

My name is Rochelle Andranigian and I am a lifelong resident of Fresno County. We are adversely impacted by the proposed California High-Speed Rail project which would destroy the farming operation on the Home Place and negatively impact our adjacent farm.

My daughter Shelli Andranigian addressed a number of issues in a letter to then California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) Chairman Thomas J. Umberg dated October 12, 2011:

"...Our properties are along the scenic and majestic Cole Slough of the Kings River. Lush oak trees and foliage dot the area which is inhabited by various forms of wildlife.

Parcels impacted by project footprint appear on Sheet 37 Appendix 3.1-A and Sheet 38 Appendix 3.1-A. Our concerns are about both the temporary and permanent impacts to these parcels.

The permanent impacts were first discovered in May, while the temporary impacts were just discovered last month while reviewing the DEIR/DEIS. Both of these impacts create a myriad of more questions; notwithstanding, why we were never told about the latter (temporary impacts), since they are just as detrimental if not more so than the permanent ones.

The temporary construction sites proposed will disrupt the entire farming operation on both parcels impacted by the project footprint. They will also serve to destroy prime farmland due to hazardous waste issues which will also adversely impact the land and the water on the property.

Air quality will also be eroded and thus harm three generations in our family who have sinus and allergy issues. We also have family members who are ultra sensitive to sound.

These are extremely serious environmental issues and major health issues. How are you able to bypass such concerns and what are you doing to make sure this doesn't happen? **I await your response to this critical question.**

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The impacted parcel which is the "Home Place" is only ¼ mile from the "temporary construction site." How long is "temporary?" Is "temporary" 5 (five) years or is "temporary" forever if the federal funds run out? **I await your response to this critical question.**

The "permanent" section on the "Home Place" will be about a ½ mile from the family home. What happens if there is a derailment at the projected "high-speed" of these trains? How will you account for any potential harming of and/or loss of life? **I await your response to this critical question."**

Ms. Brown, my daughter's letter in October 2011 (excerpted above) addressed the triple threat of being negatively impacted by air, land and water by the proposed California High-Speed Rail project. These critical questions have never been properly addressed by the Authority. We are not the only ones.

To make matters worse, by also considering selection of the least technically sound construction firm for the Fresno to Bakersfield section, the CHSRA Board is making the possibility of a possible derailment of the proposed California High-Speed Rail an almost certain reality.

We respectfully request that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) deny the exemption to the California High-Speed Rail Authority for the Fresno to Bakersfield section.

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

Rochelle Joan Andranigian
P.O. Box 752
Laton, CA 93242

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. It is my intention to 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.

The proposed California High-Speed Rail project continues to face an uncertain future both fiscally and legally. We should not as well.

For the record, I have never flown on an airplane. I prefer travel by train and have taken Amtrak numerous times across California.

Sincerely,

Rochelle Andranigian
Fresno County