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604 Plover Court
Bakersfield, CA 93309
December 16, 2013

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

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 35724, Sub-No.1
Request for Extension of Public Comment Period
California High-Speed Rail Authority's Petition for Construction Exemption in
Fresno to Bakersfield HST Section

Dear Ms. Brown:

As a longtime resident of Bakersfield, I have been carefully following the High-Speed Rail Authority (HSRA) and its proposed project especially with regard to Bakersfield. Earlier this month I learned, and confirmed through the STB website, that on September 26, 2013 the HSRA filed with the STB a Petition for Construction Exemption in the Fresno to Bakersfield Section of its project.

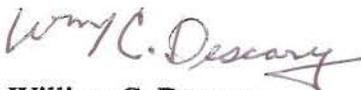
To my knowledge the petition was never a board meeting agenda item nor was it reported as a closed session discussion item. It seems to be another example of behind the scenes maneuvering by the HSRA and their rush to construct mentality. It has caught many off guard and we are upset.

While the STB denied the exemption requested in the petition, the petition makes references to the all-important transportation merits of the project that need to be examined and fully discussed. Frankly, with the busy holiday season approaching, the December 24, 2013 deadline for public comment is not adequate.

I respectfully request the Surface Transportation Board extend the public comment period to Friday, January 31, 2014.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,



William C. Descary

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661-834-3507

cc: All parties of record served