

December 19, 2013

235216

Ms. Cynthia Brown  
Chief Section of Administration  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
December 19, 2013  
Part of the Public Record

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

Dear Ms. Brown:

On behalf of the Fresno Council of Governments I filed a letter with the Surface Transportation Board ("the Board") on May 8, 2013 respectfully urging the Board to expeditiously grant the petition for exemption filed by the California High Speed Rail Authority ("CHSRA") for the construction of the 65-mile Madera to Fresno Section. Today, I am writing to urge the Board to also allow the exemption filed by the CHSRA for construction of the 114-mile Fresno to Bakersfield Section.

The Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG) is both the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the state designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency for the Fresno County region. In both of these roles, Fresno COG is responsible for long range transportation planning and programming for our region. The entire high-speed rail project will help enhance our region's vitality.

The expeditious approval of the petition for exemption is greatly needed. The high-speed rail project will soon provide thousands of local jobs and contract opportunities for local businesses which are urgently needed. By putting local residents and businesses back to work, the project supports local companies directly contracting with the CHSRA, and local businesses throughout the region when residents have additional income to spend on items for themselves and their families.

For these reasons stated above, the Fresno Council of Governments submits this letter of support to urge the Board to grant the petition for exemption for the Fresno to Bakersfield Section.

Sincerely,



Tony Boren, Executive Director

Encl. Certificate of Service

City of Clovis  
City of Coalinga  
City of Firebaugh  
City of Fowler  
City of Fresno  
City of Huron  
City of Kerman  
City of Kingsburg  
City of Mendota  
City of Orange Cove  
City of Parlier  
City of Reedley  
City of San Joaquin  
City of Sanger  
City of Selma  
County of Fresno



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## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 19th day of December 2013, I have served a copy of this comment by first class mail, postage paid, addressed to the following:

Linda J. Morgan  
NOSSAMAN, LLP  
1666 K Street, NW, Suite 500  
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Thomas Fellenz  
California High-Speed Rail Authority  
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Hanford, CA 93230

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Community Coalition On High Speed Rail  
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Woodside, CA 94062

Michael E. Lasalle  
13771 Excelsior Avenue  
Hanford, CA 93230

Executed on this 19th day of December 2013 at FRESNO, CA.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Boren".

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Tony Boren, Executive Director