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604 Plover Court
Bakersfield, CA 93309

E-Filed

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), California High-Speed Rail
Authority - Construction Exemption - In Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and Kern
Counties, California**

Dear Ms. Brown:

I am writing to object to the Motion for Leave to File a Reply to Public Comments (Motion) and Reply to Public Comments filed with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) by the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) on March 27, 2014.

In its Motion the Authority clearly acknowledges under 49 C.F.R. Section 1104.13(c), the Board's rules prohibit a "reply to a reply." Yet, the Authority assumes for unknown reasons that the Board would accept its reply to public comments in order to complete the record in this proceeding. In addition to not being legal, and unnecessary, the Authority's submission is more than a reply. It is a seventeen (17) page brief that argues the case and concludes by requesting the Board grant the exemption in a decision by July 12, 2014.

To review, in decisions on December 4, 2013 and on February 4, 2014 the Board provided for public comment on the Authority's September 26, 2013 exemption petition; specifically on the *transportation merits* (emphasis added) of the proposed construction project. Nowhere in either decision was there any direction for the Authority to respond.

The Authority's reply to the approximately fifty (50) public comments (all except three or four spoke negatively of the petition) is a blatant attempt by the Authority to influence the Board's decision. With its submission, the Authority tainted the process beyond repair.

I respectfully request the Board deny the Motion and that the Board totally disregard the Authority's Reply to Public Comments.

Sincerely,



William C. Descary