

# Chowchilla Water District

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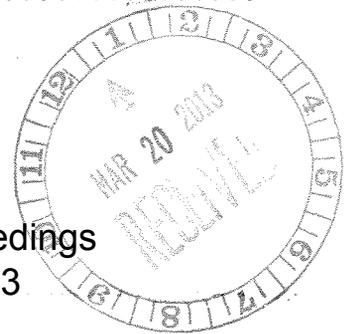
Board of Directors

*Dan Maddalena ♦ Michael Mandala ♦ Vince Taylor ♦ Kole M. Upton ♦ Mark Wolfshorndl*

March 15, 2013 233992  
FD 35724

Ms. Cynthia Brown  
Chief, Section of Administration  
Office of Proceedings  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20423-0111

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
March 27, 2013  
Part of  
Public Record



Re: Possible Submission by the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA)

Dear Ms. Brown:

The Chowchilla Water District (CWD) requests to be notified if the CHSRA requests any action from the Surface Transportation Board (STB) especially regarding an application or exemption for the California High Speed Rail project.

CWD is a public agency representing approximately 80, 000 acres in Madera and Merced Counties. The entire City of Chowchilla is within the boundaries of the District. CWD is heavily and adversely impacted by the current routes and construction that are proposed through our District. It has taken decades for CWD to arrive at its present state. CWD supplies surface water to the District farmers, fully complying with State and Federal laws. Along with other Federal Districts in the Friant Service Area, it has allowed the farmer constituents to be among the most productive and efficient in the world.

Further, the San Joaquin Valley is known as the 'breadbasket' of the world with optimum soil and climatic conditions to permit the growing of virtually any crop. The Central Valley supplies many commodities to the nation, but is responsible for the majority of fruits, nuts, and vegetables consumed in the United States.

We have made every effort to cooperate and 'coordinate' with officials and consultants of the CHSRA. Until recently, the attitude and approach by CHSRA personnel toward CWD, other agencies, and citizens in general has been that similar to an attitude of a conquering army. With new personnel now in the area, there appears to be change in attitude. Regrettably, however, many of the decisions seem irreversible.

Ms. Cynthia Brown  
March 15, 2013  
Page 2

In that construction has not yet started, and apparently, CHSRA has not even applied or received the required permit from the STB, CWD requests to be notified if and when this occurs. We are obligated to protect the interests of our constituents, and ensure that if this Project moves forward that CHSRA at least tries to make the Project compatible with existing infrastructure as much as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Maddalena", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dan Maddalena  
President, Board of Directors