



December 19, 2013

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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 County Economic Development Corporation ("the EDC"), 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 EDC is a nonprofit organization established to market Fresno County as the premier location for business prosperity. We work tirelessly to expand and bring new opportunities to Fresno County, its businesses and its residents. As the "Essential Connection" between businesses and the community, we are committed to seeing Fresno County prosper.

In this respect, the EDC's Local High Speed Rail Business Support Team connects displaced businesses with private and governmental entities committed to responding to the needs of businesses; outreaches to and provides liaison services between displaced businesses and the CHSRA; and provides relocation planning and assistance to displaced businesses. 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 EDC submits this letter of support to urge the Board to grant the petition for exemption for the Fresno to Bakersfield Section.

Sincerely,

Lee Ann Eager
President/CEO

Encl. Certificate of Service