



BRUCE RUDD
City Manager

235228

December 20, 2013

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
December 23, 2013
Part of
Public Record

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

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 City of Fresno, 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 City of Fresno has been heavily involved with the High-Speed Rail project to ensure that it will be a positive impact on our community. From early conceptual discussions on the rail alignment to more recent discussions on how the design can best complement the community and minimize business impacts, the City has found the CHSRA to be a good partner in building a project that is right for Fresno. 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.

Cynthia Brown
December 20, 2013
Page 2

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

Sincerely,



Bruce Rudd
City Manager

Encl. Certificate of Service



BRUCE RUDD
City Manager

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 20th 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
Washington, DC 20006

Thomas Fellenz
California High-Speed Rail Authority
770 L. Street, Suite 800
Sacramento, CA 95814

William C. Descary
604 Plover Court
Bakersfield, CA 93309-1336

Aaron Fukuda
7450 Mountain View Street
Hanford, CA 93230

James Janz
Community Coalition On High Speed Rail
2995 Woodside Road
Woodside, CA 94062

Michael E. Lasalle
13771 Excelsior Avenue
Hanford, CA 93230

Executed on this 20th day of December 2013 at FRESNO, CA.



Bruce Rudd, City Manager