



CHOWCHILLA UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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“Redskin Pride Community Wide”

April 8, 2013



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

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ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
April 9, 2013  
Part of Public  
Record

Re: Docket # FD\_35724\_0  
California High-Speed Rail Authority's Petition for Exemption  
California High-Speed Rail Authority's Motion to Dismiss or Discontinue

Dear Cynthia Brown:

The Chowchilla Union High School District (CUHSD) lies between Merced and Fresno, right in the heart of the Central Valley and at the junction of the North/South and East/West California High Speed Rail routes and wyes. CUHSD is a single public high school district that serves the community of Chowchilla. There are two feeder districts: Alview-Dairyland Union School District and the Chowchilla Elementary School District. The CUHSD stands to be severely impacted by the California High-Speed Train project and this district has great concerns about the processes and procedures that the California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) has followed since the passage of proposition 1A by the California voters.

Upon review of the Surface Transportation Board (STB) website on April 5, 2013, ([http://www.stb.dot.gov/filings/all.nsf/\(search-10.192.5.40-21403\)?OpenView&Count=5000](http://www.stb.dot.gov/filings/all.nsf/(search-10.192.5.40-21403)?OpenView&Count=5000)) this public school district has learned that the CHSRA failed to apply for the required permit from the Surface Transportation Board for the project and has filed a “Petition for Exemption” for the California High-Speed Rail Authority construction through Merced, Madera, and Fresno Counties (Docket # FD\_35724\_0). The Authority has also filed a “Motion to Dismiss the Petition for Exemption.”

This letter serves as the Chowchilla Union High School Districts official position on this matter. CUHSD strongly believes that the CHSRA should not be exempt from obtaining the permit from STB; some of the reasons are as follows:

1. This is the largest transportation project in our Nation and to date it has been the poster child of how NOT to run a business. It however has been a shining example of political game playing and greed.
2. Federal (American Recovery and Reinvest Act) monies are being used for the construction of this project Funds that are derived from tax dollars from across the entire United States.

3. According to the California High-Speed Train Project EIR/EIS Merced to Fresno Section, the CHSRA plans to use portions of the Amtrak system that is a passenger rail system that serves California and the states adjacent to California.

CUHSD encourages the STB to deny the exemption and the motion to dismiss from the CHSRA. It is this district's understanding that 49 USC 10901 provides that no party can "construct an additional line" or "provide transportation over, or by means of, an extended or additional railroad line," unless "the Board (STB) issues a certificate authorizing such activity."

The mere notion that the CHSRA files both a Petition for Exemption at or near the same time as the Motion to Dismiss or Discontinue, is further illustration of how the CHSRA is disorganized, dysfunction, and out of control. The CHSRA is trying to ram this rail project down the throats of California citizens, regardless of whether it is planned well, needed, funded, or economically feasible. It is purely being fueled by the need or greed to spend the Federal ARRA funds.

Again the CUHSD strongly urges the STB to deny the CHSRA's Exemption and Motion to Dismiss. Once these two matters are denied, we strongly urge the STB to deny the permit for the project.

Respectfully,



Ronald V. Seals  
Superintendent  
Chowchilla Union High School District