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May 8, 2013  
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Public Record

May 7, 2013

Via E-Filing

Daniel R. Elliott III  
Chairman  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street SW  
Washington, DC 20423

**Re: STB Finance Docket No. 35724, California High-Speed Rail Authority—  
Construction Exemption—In Merced, Madera and Fresno Counties, California**

Dear Mr. Elliott:

The Surface Transportation Board is presently considering the California High-Speed Rail Authority's petition for an exemption from the Board's certification process to allow the Authority to construct the initial section of California's high-speed train system between Merced and Fresno, California. At the core of this assessment is whether the high-speed train system is consistent with the nation's rail transportation policy.

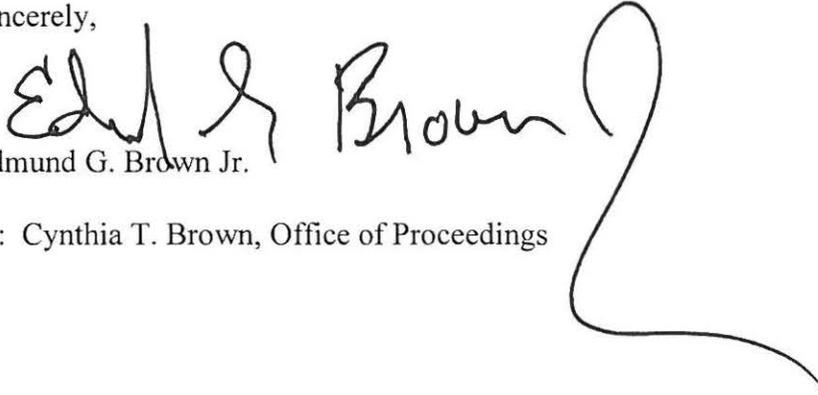
California's high-speed train system will link California's population centers without expanding airports and highways, improve mobility, help the environment, reduce energy dependency, and create hundreds of thousands of jobs. These goals align perfectly with our national goals "to ensure the development and continuation of a sound rail transportation system with effective competition among rail carriers and with other modes," and "to encourage and promote energy conservation." 49 U.S.C. § 10101. Moreover, because the project is designed to provide dedicated high speed passenger rail service, it will have no impact on the rail shipping market. *Id.* § 10502(a)(2)(B).

The Authority has received more than \$3 billion in federal funds for this project and has worked closely with its federal partners in completing an extensive environmental review. California believes that rail must play a greater role in addressing the transportation and environmental challenges facing our nation, and we look forward to continuing to work together to turn California's high-speed rail system into reality.

Chairman Elliott  
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Because national rail policy and the goals of the Authority are aligned, an exemption is appropriate and I urge the Board to grant the Authority's petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edmund G. Brown Jr.", with a large, stylized flourish extending downwards and to the right.

Edmund G. Brown Jr.

cc: Cynthia T. Brown, Office of Proceedings

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on May 8, 2013, I served the foregoing letter upon the following parties of record in this proceeding:

Frank Bigelow  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0005

Morris Brown  
140 Stone Pine Lane  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Raymond L. Carlson  
Griswold, Lasalle, Cobb, Dowd & Gin, L.L.P.  
111 E. Seventh Street  
Hanford, CA 93230  
[carlson@griswoldlasalle.com](mailto:carlson@griswoldlasalle.com)

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

Richard S. Edelman  
O'Donnell, Schwartz and Anderson, P.C.  
1300 L Street NW, Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20005  
[redelman@odsalaw.com](mailto:redelman@odsalaw.com)

Lori Flanagan  
Alview-Dairyland Union School District  
12861 Avenue 18 1/2  
Chowchilla, CA 93610

Aaron Fukuda  
Citizens For California High Speed Rail  
Accountability  
P.O. Box 881  
Hanford, CA 93232

Aaron Fukuda  
7450 Mountain View Street  
Hanford, CA 93230

Diane L. Harkey  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0073

Andrew Heglund  
City of Bakersfield  
1600 Truxtun Avenue, 4th Floor  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Bill James  
Jpods, Inc  
9370 96th Street N  
St. Paul, MN 55115

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

Charles Martin  
Chowchilla Elementary School District  
PO Box 910  
Chowchilla, CA 93610

Steve Massaro  
Preserve Our Heritage  
PO Box 501  
Chowchilla, CA 93610

Linda J. Morgan  
Nossaman LLP  
1666 K Street NW, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20006  
[lmorgan@nossaman.com](mailto:lmorgan@nossaman.com)

Frank Oliveira  
8835 22Nd Avenue  
Lemoore, CA 93245

Jim Patterson  
Assemblyman, Twenty-Third District  
PO Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94549-0023

Thomas F. Peterson  
City of Prairie Du Chien  
P.O. Box 430  
Prairie Du Chien, WI 53821

David Rogers  
Board Of Supervisors County Of Madera  
200 W. Fourth Street  
Madera, CA 93637

Allen Scott  
1318 Whitmore Street  
Hanford, CA 93230

Ronald V. Seals  
Chowchilla Union High School District  
805 Humboldt Avenue  
Chowchilla, CA 93610

Michael D. Setty  
Train Riders Association of California  
1025 Ninth Street, Suite 223  
Sacramento, CA 95814-3516

Kevin M. Sheys  
Nossaman LLP  
1666 K Street NW, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20006  
[ksheys@nossaman.com](mailto:ksheys@nossaman.com)

Jeff Taylor  
1624 Country Breeze Place  
Bakersfield, CA 93312

Kole Upton  
Findley M. Upton Trust  
P.O. Box 506  
Chowchilla, CA 93610

Honorable David G. Valadao  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1004 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Donald P. Wagner  
State Capitol  
P. O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0068

Honorable Jeff Denham  
Subcommittee On Railroads, Pipelines, And  
Hazardous Materials  
Committee On Transportation &  
Infrastructure  
U.S. House Of Representatives  
Washington, DC 2051

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Kim, Executive Legal Assistant  
Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.