



Fresno Council of Governments

2035 Tulare St., Ste. 201 tel 559-233-4148
Fresno, California 93721 fax 559-233-9645

www.fresnocog.org

December 19, 2013

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

235289
ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
January 13, 2014
Part of
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 Council of Governments 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 Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG) is both the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the state designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency for the Fresno County region. In both of these roles, Fresno COG is responsible for long range transportation planning and programming for our region. 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 Fresno Council of Governments submits this letter of support to urge the Board to grant the petition for exemption for the Fresno to Bakersfield Section.

Sincerely,

Tony Boren, Executive Director

Encl. Certificate of Service

- City of Clovis
- City of Coalinga
- City of Firebaugh
- City of Fowler
- City of Fresno
- City of Huron
- City of Kerman
- City of Kingsburg
- City of Mendota
- City of Orange Cove
- City of Parlier
- City of Reedley
- City of San Joaquin
- City of Sanger
- City of Selma
- County of Fresno



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 19th day of December 2013, I have served a copy of this comment by first class mail, postage paid, addressed to the following:

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Washington, DC 20006

Thomas Fellenz
California High-Speed Rail Authority
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Bakersfield, CA 93309-1336

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Hanford, CA 93230

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Community Coalition On High Speed Rail
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Woodside, CA 94062

Michael E.Lasalle
13771 Excelsior Avenue
Hanford, CA 93230

Executed on this 19th day of December 2013 at FRESNO, CA.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tony Boren".

Tony Boren, Executive Director