



MAYOR ASHLEY SWEARENGIN

235229

December 20, 2013

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

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
December 23, 2013  
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 May 8, 2013, I filed a letter with the Surface Transportation Board ("the Board") 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 expeditious approval of the petition for exemption is greatly needed. Fresno continues to suffer from double-digit unemployment and one of the highest rates of concentration of poverty in the United States. The CSHR project will soon provide thousands of local jobs which are urgently needed and will help enhance our region's vitality. By putting local residents back to work, the project is not simply supporting those local companies directly contracting with the Authority, but other local businesses that benefit when residents have additional income to spend on items for themselves and their families, strengthening a struggling regional economy. In addition, any delay in providing these local workers with employment can mean, in some cases, the difference between making a house payment and entering foreclosure.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ashley Swearengin".

Ashley Swearengin  
Mayor

Encl. Certificate of Service



## MAYOR ASHLEY SWEARENGIN

### 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.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Georgeanne White, Chief of Staff