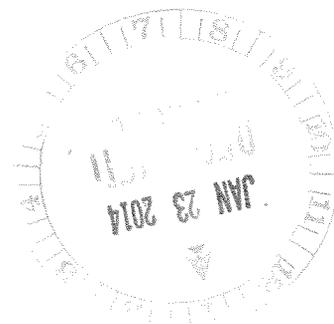


January 16, 2014

235348

The Honorable Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W., Room 100
Washington, DC 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
January 24, 2014
Part of
Public Record



Re: California High Speed Rail Authority Petition for Exemption of Fresno to Bakersfield HST Section (Finance Docket No. 35724 (Sub-No. 1))

Dear Ms. Brown,

On September 26, 2013 the California High Speed Rail Authority (Authority) petitioned the Surface Transportation Board (STB) for an exemption to construct a section of the California High Speed Rail Project (HSR Project) from Fresno to Bakersfield. Later the STB determined on December 4, 2013 to deny the exemption and extend the comment period for the public to December 24, 2013. Upon several requests the STB graciously granted the public another comment period which extended to February 14, 2013. During this period the public is granted the ability to provide comments and concerns to the STB concerning any exemption request that the Authority has requested or may request in the future.

In the last decision that was issued on December 20 2013, the STB requested interested parties to establish their intent to participate in the above subject proceeding. Please accept this letter as a notice of my intent to participate in the above referenced proceeding.

Please feel free to send any notifications to the following address:

Rachael Pepe
9904 Edna Way
Hanford, CA 93230

Again, as a citizen of California, I appreciate the willingness of the STB to grant the public more time to have a dialogue regarding the HSR Project. With this notice it is my intention to participate and stay informed on the process ahead. I also ask that the STB hold hearings in California such that the public has the opportunity to convey critical and important information before any decisions are made.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachael Pepe".

Rachael Pepe