

LAW OFFICES OF

**BORTON PETRINI, LLP**

REGIONAL OFFICES

FRESNO  
TELEPHONE (559) 268-0117  
FAX (559) 237-7995

LOS ANGELES  
TELEPHONE (213) 824-2869  
FAX (213) 489-3930

MODESTO  
TELEPHONE (209) 576-1701  
FAX (209) 527-9753

ORANGE COUNTY  
TELEPHONE (562) 596-2300  
FAX (562) 596-2322

SACRAMENTO  
TELEPHONE (916) 858-1212  
FAX (916) 858-1252

5060 CALIFORNIA AVENUE, SUITE 700

POST OFFICE BOX 2026

BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93303-2026

(661) 322-3051

FAX: (661) 322-4628

EMAIL: [BPBAK@BORTONPETRINI.COM](mailto:BPBAK@BORTONPETRINI.COM)

WEB SITE: [WWW.BORTONPETRINI.COM](http://WWW.BORTONPETRINI.COM)

F. E. BORTON (1977-1948)  
JAMES PETRINI (1997-1978)  
HARRY M. CONRON (1907-1971)  
RICHARD E. HITCHCOCK (1925-2001)  
JOHN F. PETRINI (1944-2008)

REGIONAL OFFICES

SAN BERNARDINO  
TELEPHONE (909) 381-0527  
FAX (909) 381-0658

SAN DIEGO  
TELEPHONE (619) 232-2424  
FAX (619) 531-0794

SAN FRANCISCO  
TELEPHONE (415) 677-0730  
FAX (415) 677-0737

SAN JOSE  
TELEPHONE (408) 535-0870  
FAX (408) 535-0878

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TO OUR FILE NO.

**Bakersfield**

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March 26, 2014

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FD 35724 (Sub-No. 1)

ENTERED

Office of Proceedings

April 2, 2014

Part of

Public Record

Chairman Dan Richard and  
Honorable Board Members  
California High Speed Rail Authority  
1770 "L" Street, Suite 800  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attn. Mark McLoughlin

Joseph C. Szabo, Administrator  
c/o Mr. David Valenstein  
Federal Railroad Administration  
MS-20, W38-303  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Chairman Elliot and  
Honorable Board Members  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20423

Horace Greezmiel  
Associate Director for NEPA Oversight  
Council on Environmental Quality  
722 Jackson Place, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20503

RE: High Speed Rail Project

Gentlemen and Honorable Board Members:

Our office represents Dignity Health which owns and operates Mercy Hospital in Bakersfield, California. Mercy Hospital is, to our knowledge, the only hospital impacted by the High Speed Rail (HSR) Project. The extremely close vicinity to one of Bakersfield's major medical facilities raises significant and unique health and safety issues both during and subsequent to construction. During the draft E.I.R. comment period, and subsequently, the Authority assured Dignity Health that it would study the health and safety issues and incorporate new and corrected studies and proposed mitigation measures in the F.E.I.R. In particular, the Authority promised to correct the flawed noise and vibration studies and supply them and the proposed mitigation measures to Dignity Health before finishing the F.E.I.R.

Dignity Health commissioned a peer review of the flawed noise and vibration studies regarding the effects on patient health, safety and hospital operations and, the findings were shared

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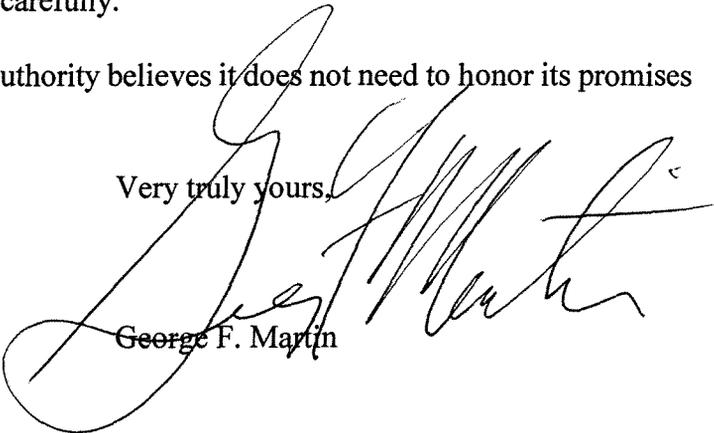
with the Authority staff, which led to a promise to do additional studies, with appropriate mitigation measures. The Authority agreed to work with Dignity Health to that end.

We now learn that the Authority plans to submit its F.E.I.R. for approval by the end of April or early May without, Dignity Health's advanced consideration and review, and, without corrected studies and mitigated measures. Dignity Health's calls are now going unanswered.

Dignity Health has at all times been cooperative with the Authority regarding their work on the project and relied on the good faith representation of the Authority personnel. The failure of the Authority to live up to its promise has resulted in Dignity Health now opposing the project. We not only demand additional studies, as promised, and appropriate mitigation measures, but, will scrutinize the F.E.I.R. much more carefully.

It appears obvious that the Authority believes it does not need to honor its promises to its stakeholders.

Very truly yours,

  
George F. Martin

GFM:vjc