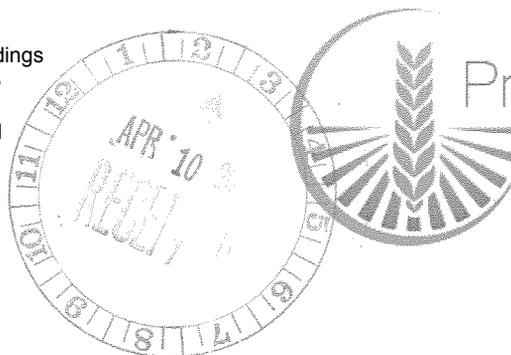


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April 6, 2013

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



Preserve our
Heritage

Dear Ms. Brown,

Preserve Our Heritage (POH) is comprised of farmers and other interests in Merced and Madera counties who are dedicated to the preservation of the legacy given to us by our Forefathers. Our immediate concern is the crippling effects to our area and its citizens by the California High Speed Rail (CHSR) project as it is currently planned.

It is our understanding that 49 USC 10901 provides that no party can “construct an additional line” or “provide transportation over, or by means of, an extended or additional railroad line” unless the Surface Transportation Board (STB) issues a certificate authorizing such activity.

However, to our knowledge, CHSR has not filed with the STB the proper application for certification and instead is now asking for an exemption or waiver.

On March 15, 2013 the Chowchilla Water District, which represents approximately 80,000 acres of our area, asked to be notified if the CHSR requested any action from the STB especially regarding an application or exemption to the CHSR project.

For more than three years POH has continually attempted to cooperate and “coordinate” with the CHSR authority board, staff and consultants. Until recently our insights and suggestions appear to have fallen on deaf ears. However, new personnel now on their staff seem to have a more cooperative attitude. Unfortunately, as of the date of this letter, the decisions made by the past personnel remain in effect.

This project is promoted as a ‘hundred year project’, and eventually to be part of a nationwide system. In its initial stages here, it starts out as part of Amtrak. Clearly, the STB needs to review this project.

We urge you to conduct a full investigation of this project; its controversial financial plan, substantially incomplete engineering, and the extremely detrimental consequences to our agricultural communities so vital to our nation’s food supply.

We ask your immediate attention to this urgent matter and request that you apprise us of any notices or findings regarding this project.

Sincerely,

Steve Massaro, President