

Charlene & Richard Hook
316 5th Ave
Corcoran, CA 93212
(559) 992-5486
Char61353@netscape.net



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March 12, 2013

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

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Office of Proceedings
March 27, 2013
Part of
Public Record

Subject: California High Speed Rail Project Request for Permit and Public Hearing

Dear Ms. Brown:

Our names are Charlene & Richard Hook and we live in Kings County - Corcoran, California. We are currently concerned with the path that the California High Speed Rail Authority is taking in pursuing the California High Speed Rail Project (HSR Project). Residents in California were misled in 2008 when the Authority and the California Legislature requested that the voters of California approve a \$9.95 billion bond to support the HSR Project. Under false information the voters approved this measure, which is commonly referred to as Proposition 1A and expected that a high-speed rail project spanning from San Francisco to Los Angeles with connections to Sacramento and San Diego would be built by 2020 for approximately \$38 billion. Over many iterations and manipulations the Authority plans to have initial operation service open by 2032 and the cost to only connect San Francisco to LA will at a cost of \$68 billion. Further complicating the project is the fact that only \$6 billion has been identified for construction and the financing plan relies almost exclusively on private sector investment and the Federal government, of which neither has come to the table with any funds beyond the \$6 billion.

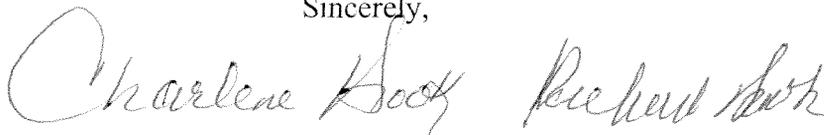
As much as this is a trouble project from a financial perspective, this project stands to have significant impacts on our local agricultural communities and our local existing public transportation systems. The Authority has based their alignment decisions on early closed door meetings between politicians and engineers, which has lead to the alignments traveling along the east-side of the Central Valley of California. What lies in the way of the alignment are multi-generational farming operations, low-income communities and existing freight and inter-city passenger rail systems. The proposed HSR Project interfered with each of these in a significant manner, and all of which have been downplayed and/or ignored by the Authority.

We implore you to please open this project up for a full investigation. Per your duties as an agency to oversee passenger rail service and freight rail service, this project has a significant chance of creating negative impacts. As a part of this investigation we also request that it be carried out in a public fashion, with all attempts made for hearings to be held in California. The public has continually been misled by the Authority and has had to work diligently to counter the misinformation being provided by the Authority staff and cadre of consultants. The public should be afforded all opportunity to relay concerns and issues with your board.

We know you are not concerned the citizens of our community loosing their homes with no other place to go. You also have not considered what it will cost the citizens to relocate. No one will be able to purchase what we have now for what you will be offering to purchase our properties. Your Authority has not even considered all the farmland and dairies you will be destroying and for what? You do not and will not have the funds to finish this project and we really will hate to see our homes rotting away for no good reason. It will cost you a lot more to relocate us due to the fact my husband is a 100% disabled veteran and medically retired from his employment. I also am not in good health fighting my past & present medical history. There is absolutely no place we would consider relocating in Corcoran.

We would like to keep apprised of this issue in the future and any notices or findings on this case can be sent to me at the address or email address provided in this letter. We appreciate your time and attention in this manner and look forward to providing future comments and concerns.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Charlene Hook and Richard Hook in cursive script.

Charlene Hook & Richard Hook