

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4016
FAX (916) 651-4916

DISTRICT OFFICES

113 COURT ST, STE. 205
HANFORD, CA 93230
TEL (559) 585-7161
FAX (559) 585-7187

2550 MARIPOSA MALL, STE. 2016
FRESNO, CA 93721
TEL (559) 264-3070
FAX (559) 445-6506

1122 TRUXTUN AVE., STE. 100
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
TEL (661) 395-2620
FAX (661) 395-2622

California State Senate

SENATOR
ANDY VIDAD

SIXTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES
BANKING AND
FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS
GOVERNANCE
AND FINANCE
GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATION
INSURANCE
JUDICIARY

237006

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
November 7, 2014
Part of
Public Record

October 27, 2014

The Honorable Daniel R. Elliott III, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W. Suite 100
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: California High-Speed Rail Authority: Petition for Declaratory Order

Dear Chairman Elliott,

As the State Senator who represents Senate District 16, which includes virtually every portion of the proposed High-Speed Rail Fresno-Bakersfield route, I write regarding the petition requesting that your Board issue a declaratory order regarding the availability of injunctive remedies under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

With several years of knowledge and engagement in this project, I want to make sure that the high-speed rail project goes through all facets of the normal environmental review process. This includes complying with both the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and CEQA and the mitigation requirements any injunctive relief imposed by the courts. The Fresno to Bakersfield route transverses many sensitive wildlife and environmentally sensitive areas of the San Joaquin Valley. Additionally, this proposed alignment will go through historic tribal lands, prime agriculture farmland, and minority communities. Having the Authority go through the CEQA process and ensuring that proper mitigation is provided mandates that the Authority meets the state standards for protection of the environment and the rights of those who will be affected along the proposed route.

This project is fully contained within the borders of the State of California and therefore should be subject to the State's environmental review, in addition to those required under federal law. On behalf of my constituents I urge your board to reject this petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Vidad".

ANDY VIDAD
Senator, 16th District

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE SENATE
2014 NOV - 3 PM 11:12