

CWD-RED TOP-CITY JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

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December 2, 2009

Ms. Carrie Bowen, Regional Director
Attn: Merced to Fresno HST Project EIR/EIS
California High-Speed Rail Authority
925 L Street, Suite 1425
Sacramento, CA. 95814

RE: Route A3 – Merced to Fresno

Dear Ms. Bowen:

This Joint Powers Authority (JPA) consisting of the City of Chowchilla, the Chowchilla-Red Top Resource Conservation District, and the Chowchilla Water District was formed in 1997. The purpose was primarily to act in concert on water related matters because water is essential to the agricultural industry which is the primary economic engine for this area.

Nevertheless, this JPA has the ability and obligation to act on other matters which also could affect this area's economic viability and future. It is with that in mind that we considered the subject matter at our meeting of Nov. 30, 2009.

Upon a motion by Director Mandala and a second by Director Coelho, the JPA board voted unanimously to oppose Route A3 which is under consideration by the California High Speed Rail Authority. The discussion prior to the motion emphasized the fact that the route is extremely damaging to prime agricultural land and the associated water delivery systems. Plus, Route A3 is in direct violation of the Rail Authority guidelines of minimizing impacts to agriculture and the environment.

Lastly, it should be pointed out that the two City of Chowchilla Councilmen representing the City of Chowchilla on this JPA both joined in the unanimous vote to oppose Route A3.

If you require further clarification, please contact Mr. Douglas Welch, General Manager.

Sincerely,



Kole Upton
President, Board of Directors

Attachment: Minutes

cc:

1. Madera County Board of Supervisors
2. Merced County Board of Supervisors

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3. City of Chowchilla
4. Chowchilla- Red Top Resource Conservation District
5. Merced County Farm Bureau
6. Madera County Farm Bureau
7. University of California at Merced
8. San Joaquin Raptor Center
9. LeGrand-Athlone Water District
10. Merced County Sphere of Influence (SOI) Water Users Association
11. Merced Irrigation District
12. Madera Irrigation District
13. Chowchilla Water District landowners and/or farmers
14. Brien Carlson, Pacific Gas & Electric, Madera office

**MINUTES
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
OF THE CWD-RED TOP-CITY JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the CWD-Red Top-City Joint Powers Authority was held on Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. at the Chowchilla Water District Office at 327 S. Chowchilla Blvd.

President Upton called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. and asked that each person present introduce themselves. Introductions followed.

Present at the Meeting:

CWD Directors: Dan Maddalena, Mike Mandala, Kole Upton and Mark Wolfshondl

Chowchilla Red-Top RCD Directors: Sandy Faust, Jack Fry, Tim Coehlo and Norm Kuhr

City Councilmen Present: David Alexander and John Chavez

Staff Present: Douglas Welch

Others Attending: Brandon Tomlinson, Pete Fry, Dan Flanagan, Ray Beach and David Campbell

PUBLIC COMMENT: President Upton opened the meeting to public comment. No one requested to speak at that time.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Kole Upton stated that the first order of business was to elect officers. He then turned the meeting over to Mr. Welch to conduct the election. Mr. Welch opened the floor for nominations for President. Jack Fry nominated Kole Upton for President, seconded by Mike Mandala. Hearing no further nominations, Mr. Welch closed the floor to nominations and a unanimous vote was cast for Kole Upton. Mr. Welch opened the floor for nominations for Vice President. Kole Upton nominated Jack Fry for Vice-President, seconded by Dan Maddalena. Hearing no further nominations, Mr. Welch closed the floor to nominations and a unanimous vote was cast for Jack Fry. Mr. Welch turned the meeting back over to Kole Upton.

APPOINTMENT OF STAFF: Upon the motion of Mike Mandala, seconded by Mark Wolfshorndl, the Directors unanimously approved appointment of Douglas Welch to serve as the Manager-Secretary and Lela Beatty to serve as the Auditor-Treasurer.

MINUTES: Upon the motion of Mike Mandala, seconded by Sandy Faust, the Directors unanimously approved the minutes of the September 17, 2008 board meeting, as mailed.

CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY – President Upton lead a discussion of the proposed California High-Speed Rail that is being studied and planned.

Some of the comments from those attending included:

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There were originally four routes proposed. Two key criteria that had to be considered in the evaluation were cost and travel time. Another was impact on agriculture.

The Rail Authority staff has eliminated route alternatives without providing an adequate explanation for why they were eliminated. There are two alternatives remaining, A2 and A3. Route A2 is the most costly of all the routes evaluated and Route A3 is the least expensive but impacts agriculture the most.

There are suspicions that Rail Authority staff are stacking the deck to get the alternative they want.

The Rail Authority has not included CWD on its technical work group, even though its irrigation distribution system is impacted the most in Madera County.

Madera County and the Cities are trying to influence the Rail Authority to locate the Heavy Maintenance Yard in Madera County.

On the motion of Mike Mandala, seconded by Tim Coehlo, the authority directors voted unanimously to oppose Route A3.

CHOWCHILLA WATER DISTRICT REPORT: Copies of the CWD Average Groundwater Level Graphs and CWD Water Delivery Reports were reviewed with the directors. The Spring and Fall groundwater level measurements by CWD showed a nine foot fall for the year.

CITY OF CHOWCHILLA: David Alexander stated that the City is facing huge financial problems. Jack Fry asked how that would impact the City's Arundo eradication program. The answer was that the program would be seriously impacted. Doug Welch offered that CWD would be willing to assist the City in the ongoing Arundo maintenance program to prevent Arundo from becoming reestablished in the Ash Slough adjacent to the City.

CHOWCHILLA-RED TOP RCD: Jack Fry stated that they had been participating in joint meetings with other conservation groups and had obtained grants.

DIRECTORS REPORTS: none

ADJOURNMENT: President Upton adjourned the meeting at 2:57 p.m.

Approved: _____
Kole M. Upton, President