



April 30, 2010

Mr. Curt Pringle, Chairman
California High-Speed Rail Authority
925 L Street, Suite 1425
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Pringle:

At the April 14, 2010 Madera County Economic Development Commission (MCEDC) Board of Directors meeting a motion was unanimously passed putting the MCEDC on record opposing the proposed A-2 alignment and; unless the California High Speed Rail Authority (HSR) can propose an alternative route that is acceptable by both the cities of Madera and Chowchilla MCEDC will only support the A-1 alignment.

The major concern that MCEDC has with the A-2 route is that it will run through the middle of each of our two cities and impacts residential, commercial and industrial sites.

There are significant industrial facilities that would be negatively impacted. HSR staff has stated relocation money would be offered to these businesses, however, when an industrial site is located, it cannot be randomly relocated a ½ mile away. Industrial users select sites for very specific reasons and if forced to relocate the prospect of them remaining in Madera County, or even the State of California, is very low at best.

Displacement of commercial businesses that are operating in the Downtown Madera area would also face challenging relocation circumstances. Most all of the businesses in the downtown area service a "walking" clientele. Furthermore they are paying rental rates that are a fraction of other areas in the City of Madera and relocation would create a financial hardship on those business owners.

Future retail projects that are proposed for the Ave. 17 interchange will be harshly impaired by the A-2 alignment. Many will not move forward with existing development plans when faced with the severe impacts of the A-2 route considering the taking of key property, imposing barriers to freeway visibility and an array of other issues. This area is critical to the future commercial development for the City of Madera and can have enormous negative impacts on future revenues.

"Madera County, The Perfect Location"

2425 West Cleveland Ave., Suite 101 • Madera, CA 93637
559-675-7768 • fax 559-675-3252 • www.maderacountyedc.com



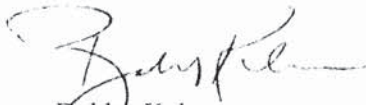
In Chowchilla many business would also be displaced and the new “commercial/industrial” growth center would be destroyed. The newly proposed Robertson Ave/Hwy 233 Interchange would most likely have to be redesigned and future transportation routes are also in jeopardy.

There is no advantage to the cities or the county if the A-2 route is selected and the two major population centers are cut in half by a high speed rail system that will do no more than run through the County of Madera and its two cities at speeds in excess 200 MPH every 7-10 minutes not stopping until they reach either Fresno on the south or Merced on the north.

MCEDC urges that the HSR move quickly to resolve this issue as already in jeopardy is the possible loss of \$5 million in Federal Economic Development Agency money. MCEDC finds it unacceptable that the HSR Board does not take immediate action to assure the hard work and expense to each city to secure the above mentioned grant funds, not to mention the future revenues generated from these projects, are not lost.

Please feel free to contact me if you or your staff has any questions regarding this matter and we are more than willing to meet with appropriate staff to expedite solving this grave problem.

Respectfully submitted,



Bobby Kahn
Executive Director

Cc:

Board Members

Tom Umberg
David Crane
Rod Diridon, Sr.
Richard Katz
Lynn Schenk
Fran Florez
Judge Quentin L. Kopp
Russ Burns

Executive Director

Carrie Pourvahidi