

MADERA CHAMBER

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May 13, 2010

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

Dear Chairman Pringle:

On April 26, 2010, the Madera Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors took official action on the proposed California High Speed Rail routes through Madera. A motion was unanimously passed opposing the A-2 route that runs through the City of Madera and supporting the A-1 route, or a version with minor modifications of the A-1 route, just east of the city.

In opposition to the A-2 route, the Madera Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors have concluded that there are far too many impacts that would devastate the residential, commercial, and industrial areas along the proposed A-2 route.

Too many commercial and industrial businesses would be displaced, and while there are funds to assist in the relocation of those affected by the proposed route, there is a concern that this would not be feasible or affordable for these businesses to do so, thus creating a great hardship. In particular, our downtown businesses provide services to those who live in the area and that have limited transportation. The end result of the high speed rail on the proposed A-2 route would eliminate these services and products to those consumers, creating a loss of client base for the downtown commercial area. The aforementioned arguments also create a concern for the loss of sales tax revenue to our city.

The Madera Chamber of Commerce questions whether the funding from mitigation would really provide what is needed to successfully resolve the negative impacts this route would leave in its' trail.

With the great task ahead of you, the Madera Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, respectfully requests that you eliminate the proposed A-2 route and focus all future developments for the A-1 route regarding the high speed rail in Madera County.

If you, or your staff, have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (559) 673-3563.

Respectfully,



Debra L. Bray
President/CEO
Madera Chamber of Commerce