

RESOLUTION NO. 10-110

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MADERA, CALIFORNIA,  
SUPPORTING THE A-1 CALIFORNIA HIGH SPEED RAIL ALIGNMENT AND  
OPPOSING THE SELECTION OF THE A-2 ALIGNMENT**

WHEREAS, California's high-speed rail project (HSR Project) is a planned transportation backbone whose initial 500 miles (phase one) will begin in Anaheim/Los Angeles, run through the Central Valley from Bakersfield to Merced, then head northwest into the Bay Area. It will travel up to 220 miles per hour and be able to make its journey from Los Angeles to San Francisco in under 2 hours and 40 minutes; and

WHEREAS, the Merced to Fresno portion of system is one of several sections that are being evaluated and studied environmentally as distinct segments. The Merced to Fresno section of the High-Speed Rail (HSR) system is 60 miles long and includes the junction that permits high-speed trains to be routed either to Sacramento or San Francisco in the north. HSR stations are proposed in downtown Merced and Fresno and a heavy maintenance and repair facility will be evaluated in the Merced to Fresno HSR project area; and

WHEREAS, of three potential alignments in the vicinity of Madera, two routes remain under consideration: A-1 (Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corridor) and A-2 (Union Pacific Corridor); and

WHEREAS, the HSR Project staff has determined that the A-1 alignment "is a viable alternative that meets the project purpose and need while also adhering to all the project objectives;" and

WHEREAS, the A-1 route represents the best opportunity to collaborate with adjacent rail corridor (BNSF), and is less expensive to construct than A-2; and

WHEREAS, the A-1 alignment in large measure will avoid the impacts created by the A-2 alignment. The A-1 alignment circumvents the City hence avoiding impacts to the downtown, businesses outside of the downtown, and properties with significant development potential outside of the downtown area; and

WHEREAS, damage to sites with potential for retail development – at Avenue 17 and 99 as well as Avenue 12 and 99 – will be avoided by the A-2 alignment. Sales tax is a major revenue source for the City's General Fund. Loss of sales tax would result in a loss of service dollars available to fund police, fire, streets, etc; and

WHEREAS, businesses forced to relocate from downtown Madera will likely have difficulty finding buildings with comparable rent structures, in close proximity – walking distance – to their customers; and

WHEREAS, unless the A-1 alignment is selected, the physical setting and scale of the rail structure associated with the elevated A-2 alignment will be inconsistent with the setting and scale of downtown Madera; and

WHEREAS, the State Auditor's recent report on the HSR business describes a seriously flawed plan, casting doubt on the timing and success of the project in its current form, and is a compelling argument that expectations of large amounts of capital mitigation funds for Madera are extremely speculative; and

WHEREAS, there are 21 locations currently competing for designation as the heavy maintenance facility, including 5 sites in Madera County. One of the Madera County sites relies on the A-1 alignment, and two additional sites would work on either route. If the preferred heavy maintenance facility site is located on the A-1 alignment exclusively, the selection of an alignment other than A-1 could cost Madera County thousands of jobs and multiple millions of dollars in investments.

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MADERA HEREBY finds, orders and resolves as follows:

1. The above recitals are true and correct.
2. The City Council hereby identifies and supports the A-1 alignment for the HSR Project through the Madera General Plan Planning Area.
3. The City Council hereby opposes the selection of the A-2 alignment for the HSR Project through the Madera General Plan Planning Area.
4. This resolution is effective immediately.

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PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Madera this 19th day of May, 2010


by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Svanda, Poythress, Mindt, Bompreszi, Armentrout.


NOES: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None.

ABSENT: None.

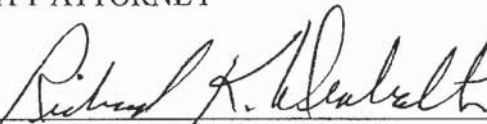
  
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GARY L. SVANDA, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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SONIA ALVAREZ, City Clerk



APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:  
CITY ATTORNEY

  
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By: RICHARD K. DENHALTER  
5/24/10