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## CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY

January 8, 2009

Jim DeMartini  
Chairman  
Stanslaus County Board of Supervisors - District 5  
1014 10th Street, Suite 6500  
Modesto, CA 95358

Dear Mr./Ms. DeMartini:

As you may know, the California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) is preparing an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the Merced to Sacramento High Speed Train (HST) Project as part of the state-wide system.

The Statewide Program EIR/EIS generally selected the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) corridor for the high-speed train route from Sacramento to Stockton. However, due to federal regulations under the Clean Water Act and because the UPRR alignment option may have more potential impacts to waters and biological resources, the Central California Traction (CCT) alignment option will also be evaluated as part of the Project EIR/EIS. The BNSF corridor was selected for the route between Stockton and Merced. As part of the second program EIR/EIS, the Authority and FRA selected the Pacheco Pass with San Francisco and San Jose termini network alternative, as well as preferred corridor alignments and station location options. The alignment selected uses the UPRR corridor through the portion of the Central Valley from Merced to just south of Stockton, and the BNSF corridor was recommended for further study in this area for the Project EIR/EIS. Tiering from the two program EIR/EISs, the Authority and the FRA will prepare a project EIR/EIS for the Merced to Sacramento Section of the HST. Stations are planned in Merced, Modesto, Stockton and Sacramento.

We would like to inform you that we will be hosting scoping meetings from 3 to 7 pm (open house format, no presentation) in January 2010 at the following locations in the Central Valley:

**Stockton Meeting**

January 20, 2010  
San Joaquin Council of Governments  
555 E. Weber Avenue  
Stockton, CA

**Merced Meeting**

January 21, 2010  
Merced Community Senior Center  
755 W. 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Merced, CA

**Sacramento Meeting**

January 27, 2010  
Amtrak Depot, Model Room  
301 I Street  
Sacramento, CA

**Modesto Meeting**

January 28, 2010  
Modesto Centre Plaza  
1000 L Street  
Modesto, CA

The scoping meetings are the first step of the environmental review process and will be an opportunity for you and others to comment on the project's potential environmental and right-of-way effects that you think should be

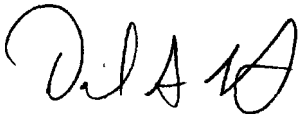
included in the EIR/EIS. It is important to us that as many stakeholders as possible participate in the project's scoping process, so please feel free to distribute information about the upcoming scoping meeting and the project.

Additionally, we encourage posting the enclosed information on your website or in a newsletter (we'd be happy to provide electronic versions of project information materials upon request).

We believe strongly that the California HST project will be a success if we develop strong partnerships with the communities along the route. As we move forward with the environmental review process, we hope to develop a working relationship that can foster open dialogue.

If you would like more information about the project, we would be happy to provide a briefing to you or your staff. Please contact Beverly Mason, Public Participation Manager for the Merced to Sacramento section at 916-567-8072, to schedule a briefing or request additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Leavitt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dan" being the most prominent.

Dan Leavitt  
Deputy Director  
California High-Speed Rail Authority





**FLY CALIFORNIA**  
*Without ever leaving the ground.*

## WHAT IS THE HIGH-SPEED TRAIN?

**T**he California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) is proposing high-speed train service for travel between Los Angeles and San Diego in the south to the San Francisco Bay Area and Sacramento in the north. This fast, safe, reliable system will travel at speeds in excess of 200 miles per hour and is forecast to carry up to 41 million passengers annually for the entire 800-mile high-speed train network by the year 2035.

### **MERCED TO SACRAMENTO HIGH-SPEED TRAIN PROJECT**

The Merced-to-Sacramento section of the High-Speed Train (HST) system includes the City of Sacramento south to the City of Merced. Proposed route alternatives generally follow the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF), the Central California Traction (CCT) or the Union Pacific (UP) railroads throughout the section. HST stations are proposed in Sacramento, Stockton, Modesto, and Merced. (See detailed map inside.)



# CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED TRAIN SYSTEM



## ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS

California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) initiated the project-level environmental review process for the high-speed train project between Merced and Sacramento.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Authority has issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP), and the FRA published a Notice of Intent (NOI) for the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). As part of the initial phase of the environmental process, public scoping meetings will be hosted to receive public comment on the alternatives and issues that should be examined as part of the environmental analysis. Your comments will be considered in the preparation of the environmental document and will become part of the public record.



## WHAT IS SCOPING?

Scoping is the first opportunity to become involved in the Merced-to-Sacramento HST project-level Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS). During the scoping process the public, as well as city, county, state, and federal agencies have an opportunity to provide comments on project alternatives and environmental impacts to be evaluated in the EIR/EIS. The purpose of the scoping process is to:

- identify public and agency concerns early in the environmental process
- receive input on alternatives and issues that will be examined in the Draft EIR
- save time in the overall process and facilitate an efficient EIR/EIS preparation process

## IMPLEMENTATION AND CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE





# COME PARTICIPATE IN THE MERCED TO SACRAMENTO HIGH-SPEED TRAIN PROJECT!

The California High-Speed Rail Authority will host public scoping meetings along the project section to provide the public with an opportunity to learn about the project, ask questions and provide feedback about what project alternatives and environmental issues should be evaluated in the EIR/EIS. Please join us for one of the following Open House sessions:

## STOCKTON

January 20, 2010

3:00 - 7:00 pm

San Joaquin Council of Governments  
555 E. Weber Avenue, Stockton, CA

## MERCED

January 21, 2010

3:00 - 7:00 pm

Merced Senior Center  
755 W. 15th Street, Merced, CA

## SACRAMENTO

January 27, 2010

3:00 - 7:00 pm

Amtrak Depot, Model Room  
301 I Street, Sacramento, CA

## MODESTO

January 28, 2010

3:00 - 7:00 pm

Modesto Center Plaza  
1000 L Street, Modesto, CA

## COMMENTS

Public scoping comments regarding the Merced-to-Sacramento HST project will be accepted until Wednesday, February 26, 2010. Please send comments to Dan Leavitt, Deputy Director, Merced-to-Sacramento, California High-Speed Rail Authority, 925 L Street, Suite 1425, Sacramento, CA 95814. Comments can also be submitted via email to [comments@hsr.ca.gov](mailto:comments@hsr.ca.gov) with the subject line "Merced to Sacramento HST."

## CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED TRAIN PROJECT WILL:

- Be built on dedicated right-of-way, safely separated from cars and trucks, pedestrians and other rail traffic
- Use only a fraction of the energy of automobiles and airplanes
- Help free California from dependence on fossil fuels and reduce greenhouse gases that cause global warming.
- Reduce traffic – the statewide system will remove over 50 million auto trips per year
- An additional 600,000 jobs are expected to be created as a result of the economic growth the train system will bring to California
- Improve the environment – the energy efficient, high-speed trains will provide a transportation alternative that will help reduce air pollution.
- Provide better connections – provides a safer, time and cost efficient alternative to automobiles and will help relieve overcrowding at major airports

For more information visit [www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov](http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov)