

FRESNO-BAKERSFIELD DEIR/DEIS

The California High Speed Rail Authority (Authority) released its Draft Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Impact Statement (DEIR/DEIS) in August for a 45-day public review period. CCHSRA, and its members submitted numerous letters requesting an extension to a 90-day public review period and were granted a 60-day public review. In early September the Authority was requested by the Boswell Company for a 6-month public review period (CCHSRA, other organizations throughout the state and several municipalities also submitted similar requests). On October 5th the Authority announced that they were going to revise the DEIR/DEIS to incorporate the Hanford West Bypass as an alternative. The Hanford West Bypass alternative was the original alignment proposed in 2005, however over several years the Authority had moved the alignment to the Hanford East Bypass. In late 2010 the Authority decided to proceed with the DEIR/DEIS without the Hanford West Bypass, and in July 2011 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers submitted independent letters to the Authority recommending that they include the Hanford West Bypass in the DEIR/DEIS. At this time the Authority is performing environmental and engineering reviews along the Hanford West Bypass and anticipates that the Revised DEIR/DEIS will be released for another 45-day public review period in Spring 2012. In order to keep the high-speed rail project moving the Authority proceeded to close the public review for the Fresno to Merced DEIR/DEIS and is anticipating to begin construction in that area first. CCHSRA and many other groups filed comments and letters in the Fresno to Merced DEIR/DEIS to ensure the ability to file a lawsuit when needed.



CCHSRA hosted two EIR/EIS workshops to help locals understand the EIR/EIS process.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- * November 15, 2011 Budget Subcommittee 3 hearing in Palo Alto
- * November 29, 2011 Assembly Transportation Committee Hearing on HSR in Sacramento
- * CCHSRA sponsored Right-of-Way Acquisition Workshop (details forthcoming)

FRESNO STATE HSR FORUM

Fresno State University has offered a High-Speed Rail (HSR) course for students. As a part of the course Fresno State hosted a HSR forum on October 27, 2011 at the Fresno State Satellite Union. A panel of 4 people were present:

- Mike Villines-CHSRA
 - David Valadao-Assemblyman
 - Daniel Krause-Californians for HSR
 - Elizabeth Alexis-Californians Advocating Responsible Rail Design
- Mr. Villines and Mr. Krause gave their typical “we have to do this” and “we need jobs” promotion, while Assemblyman Valadao and Ms. Alexis presented numbers that indicated the project is flawed and we are not headed in the right direction.
- Video of event at: www.cchsra.org

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The California High Speed Rail Authority is the poster child for "No Consultant Left Behind" - Elizabeth Alexis, CAARD



CCHSRA is committed to ensuring this does not happen!

CHSRA BUSINESS PLAN

On November 1, 2011 the Authority released its 2012 Business Plan. This Authority has released three previous Business Plans, which are required under Proposition 1A (legislation authorizing the HSR project and providing \$9.95 billion). All previous business plans have come under significant scrutiny and have not been accepted by legislature, therefore allowing for the execution of general obligation bonds to finance the HSR project. The new 2012 Business Plan indicates:

- The cost of the project has now ballooned to \$98 billion (2008: \$33 Billion, 2009: \$48 Billion).
- The cost of a ticket from San Francisco to Los Angeles is anticipated to be \$81.00 one-way.
- Full system is now anticipated in 2033
- Ridership is estimated between 23 and 34 million (original estimates were 41 million)

Within the Business Plan is also the funding plan which seeks to utilize approximately \$3.3 billion in Federal funds and the issuance of \$2.7 billion in state general obligation bonds. The Authority has allowed a 60-day public review period of the Business Plan. CCHSRA and its members are currently reviewing the Business Plan and formulating an analysis and comments. The Legislature is also quickly moving to provide oversight hearing on the Business Plan and two upcoming hearings include:

- Budget Subcommittee 3 Hearing in Palo Alto on November 15, 2011 (CCHSRA has been asked to participate in this hearing)
- Assembly Transportation Hearing in Sacramento on November 29, 2011

CCHSRA is seeking assistance from individuals in reviewing the Business Plan and specifically looking for expertise in the business, economics and engineering fields. Please contact CCHSRA if you are willing to provide assistance.

KINGS COUNTY SAYS NO HSR & CCHSRA TAKES THAT MESSAGE TO SACRAMENTO

The Kings County Supervisors have had enough of the California High Speed Rail Authority. On October 18, 2011 the Kings County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to say "No High-Speed Rail in Kings County." Supervisors cited previous attempts to work with the California High Speed Rail Authority without any success.

On November 3, 2011 CCHSRA took a bus of approximately 30 people to Sacramento to deliver this message to the California High Speed Rail Authority at its scheduled board meeting. CCHSRA was also joined by groups from Preserve our Heritage, Bakersfield, Merced, CC-HSR, CAARD and various other concerned citizens.

Approximately 75+ opponents to the project were present to give public testimony. The Authority limited speaking to 1.5 minutes per

speaker, however when Kings County residents were given time, the Authority restricted comments to 1 minute.

Frank Olivera, Kings County landowner and CCHSRA Co-Chairman delivered his message and exceeded his one minute allotment, which the Authority responded by directing two CHP officers to escort Mr. Oliveira away from the podium.

The continued mistreatment of Kings County elected officials, landowners and concerned citizens only enforces the belief that the California High Speed Rail Authority is not processing this project in a legitimate fashion.

For videos from the November 3rd meeting and other CCHSRA events visit us at Youtube under CCHSRAORG or visit www.cchsra.org.