



April 23, 2014

California High Speed Rail Authority Board
Attn: Chairman Dan Richard
770 L Street, Suite 800
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: **Final EIR/EIS and Authority Board Meeting Consideration Extension Request**

Dear Board Members,

The Citizens for California High Speed Rail Accountability (Accountability) requests that the California High Speed Rail Authority (Authority) postpone consideration of approval for the Final EIR/EIS Fresno to Bakersfield Section. The Authority concluded the public comment period on the Draft Revised EIR/EIS Fresno to Bakersfield Section in the Fall of 2012. Since that time (approximately 18 months) the Authority has been responding to comments and revising the Draft Revised EIR/EIS to address comments provided prior to the Fall of 2012. The Final EIR/EIS was issued on April 18, 2014 and the Authority has noticed a public hearing on May 6, 2014 to hear comments and to consider approval of the document on May 7, 2014. This only gives the public approximately 17 days to review and understand approximately 4,800 pages of responses to comments provided by the Authority.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) under which the Final EIR/EIS was developed, ensure the ability of the public to participate in development of the document and to ensure that impacts and mitigation measures are appropriately documented. Given the lengthy time the Authority has taken to provide careful responses and the volume of material to review, the only reasonable action on behalf of the Authority at this time is to grant the public a suitable review time. This ensures that the Final EIR/EIS has addressed the concerns and comments submitted by the public.

It is also reasonable to believe that allowing an extension of time for review would give the Authority, and more specifically Board Members, the ability to fully review and understand the responses in the Final EIR/EIS. This will ensure that the votes cast on the documents are fully informed.

The CCHSRA requests that the Authority postpone any public hearing and/or potential approval of the Final EIR/EIS until June 2014. This will allow the public approximately one month to review and provide further comments if necessary on the Final EIR/EIS. We ask that this

determination be made within 5-calendar days and that we be notified at cchsraorg@gmail.com as to the decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Aaron Fukuda", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Aaron Fukuda
Citizens for California High Speed Rail Accountability

cc:

County of Kings

City of Bakersfield

Congressman David Valadao

Congressman Jeff Denham

Congressman McCarthy

Senator Andy Vidak

Assemblymember Jim Patterson

David Valenstein, Federal Railroad Administration