



RAIL AUTHORITY GIVES FRESNO-BAKERSFIELD ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT GO-AHEAD; CCHSRA ATTORNEY WARNS OF WIDESPREAD DISRUPTION TO FARMS AND BUSINESSES

Hanford, CA May 8, 2014 – An attorney for **Citizens for California High Speed Rail Accountability (CCHSRA)** cautioned that a newly certified environmental document covering Fresno to Bakersfield will have serious ramifications if implemented.

The second segment of the high-speed rail project for Fresno-Bakersfield was approved by the **California High-Speed Rail Authority** Board on Wednesday, May 7th in Fresno, California.

“We do not think the Authority has owned up to all the impacts,” said Oakland, California-based attorney Jason Holder. “While the decision today is an incremental step toward realizing the long-sought vision of high-speed rail (HSR), that vision is very far from fruition. Meanwhile the dislocation, disruption and other impacts this project will cause to San Joaquin Valley residents, businesses and farms will be widespread and substantial.”

Mr. Holder further warned of the implications of the Authority’s lack of sufficient funding.

“Until the Authority can demonstrate that it has the funds to complete a project that provides HSR service from the Central Valley to Southern California and then to the Bay Area, the long-term and broader benefits will not be realized and the merits of the project will be in question,” he said.

“The Authority lacks funding to implement high-speed rail passenger service between Fresno and Bakersfield,” said **CCHSRA** Co-Chairman Frank Oliveira, “and it needs \$25 billion to start passenger revenue service of the Initial Operating Segment between Madera and the San Fernando Valley.”

Citizens for California High Speed Rail Accountability (CCHSRA) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy group based in Kings County whose members reside in the city of Hanford and surrounding rural areas, along with other Californians who are affected by the high-speed rail. The group has been in the forefront since June 2011 attempting to get the **California High-Speed Rail Authority** and its board to be in full compliance with **Proposition 1A** which the state’s voters passed in November 2008.

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For more information, please visit us at <http://www.cchsra.org/> and/or contact Shelli Andranigian at andranigianmedia7@att.net. Thank you.