

# *Chowchilla Water District*

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Board of Directors

*Dan Maddalena ♦ Michael Mandala ♦ Vince Taylor ♦ Kole M. Upton ♦ Mark Wolfshorndl*

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November 20, 2009

Ms. Carrie Bowen, Regional Director  
Attn: Merced to Fresno HST Project EIR/EIS  
California High-Speed Rail Authority  
925 L Street, Suite 1425  
Sacramento, CA. 95814

Dear Ms. Bowen:

The Chowchilla Water District (CWD) opposes Route A3 as a route for the California High-Speed Rail. We remain open to discussion of alternative routes which do not have the draconian effects on our public agency and its land owners.

The publicly elected directors of CWD wish to express their concern with the lack of contact and outreach to the constituents of CWD. It is disconcerting to say the least that CWD and its constituents have received letters from the California High-Speed Rail Authority indicating its desire to inspect personal property for the purpose of basically destroying people's lives as they currently exist without any prior input or notice.

CWD's jurisdictional boundaries are in both Merced and Madera Counties. CWD has separately elected directors who determine policy for the District. Thus, it is appalling that the California High-Speed Rail Authority would base this decision for route A3 consideration on a letter from the City of Chowchilla, City of Madera, and the County of Madera. It is particularly galling to those in Merced County who by no stretch of the imagination are in any way, shape, or form represented by the three entities who sent the letter.

Further, we would note that the concept of a High Speed Rail is a worthy one. However, we do not think the concept should involve destroying farms, rural houses, water district facilities, and other facilities essential to this area remaining a viable economic base. There are already easements and rights of way existing for rail facilities. It makes no sense from a public perspective

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to destroy an existing and a functioning economic engine when you already have the right of way tools you need.

We hope you will be willing to discuss this matter with us, other public agencies who also object to route A3, and the numerous individuals who are rapidly forming an alliance to ensure our voices are heard. We hope and expect that the California High Speed Rail Authority Directors, and Staff will honor the democratic process on which this country was founded, and not use the heavy handed techniques of totalitarian regimes to force this down our throat.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Maddalena". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dan Maddalena,  
CWD Board President