



March 29, 2010

Chairman Curt Pringle
CA High Speed Rail Authority
925 L Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Executive Director

**RE: Support Alternative Route A-2
Oppose Alternative Routes A-3; A-4**

Dear Chairman Pringle:

Our organization has been very involved in the High Speed Rail (HSR) route selection process since the Fall of 2009, and we continue to stay engaged on the issue. Thank you for hearing our thoughts and for receiving our input on route placement. We are especially appreciative of Carrie Bowen, Director of HSR Central Region, for her open minded approach to problem solving, and for her availability to our constituency in Madera County.

Madera County Farm Bureau has publicly taken a position *opposing* Proposed Alternative Route A-3, which creates a new transportation corridor through a swath of developed farmland. We have demonstrated in previous communication that this route will have irreversible impacts to our county's economy, and is a prime example of bad planning practices. At the Board of Directors meeting March 9, 2010, a unanimous vote was cast to *oppose* Proposed Alternative A-4 for similar reasons. Alternative Route A-4 will remove roughly 720 acres of farmland from production and will create cumulative impacts to the economy and to the existing environment.

We remain in *support* of Proposed Alternative A-2, as this route maintains the use of existing transportation corridors, in accordance with the charter of the California High Speed Rail. Landowners of all types: residential, commercial, *and* agricultural will be affected by any land acquisition required to build the HSR infrastructure. We do not favor the Alternative A-2 as a result of self-interest. Agriculture is not immune to impacts caused by Alternative Route A-2, as several landowners continue to farm alongside Highway 99. The Madera Farm Bureau understands that our industry will be impacted by this route and is willing to provide the State of California with credible information to aid with the fair compensation

Madera County Farm Bureau

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for the taking of property, lost income, nuisance and cumulative impacts to farming operations.

We strongly urge the California High Speed Rail Authority to eliminate Proposed Alternatives A-3 and A-4 from further study, thereby salvaging the agricultural economy that continues to be the economic driver for Madera County. Please support the advancement of Proposed Alternative A-2, as the high speed train belongs in incorporated areas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Erickson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

JIM ERICKSON
Board President

cc: MCFB Board of Directors
Carrie Bowen, High Speed Rail Central Region Director
Madera County Board of Supervisors
Madera City Council Members
Chowchilla City Council Members