

Merced County Farm Bureau

December 1, 2009

Ms. Carrie Bowen, Regional Director
California High-Speed Rail Authority
925 "L" Street, Suite 1425
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Merced to Fresno HST Project

Dear Ms. Bowen:

We are again amazed and appalled at the latest actions by those representing the California High-Speed Rail Authority. Farm Bureau members have started receiving letters proposing yet another route (A3) for consideration for the Merced to Fresno route.

This time they have managed to outdo themselves. It is hard to fathom a route more intrusive and damaging to prime agricultural land than A3. We have been led to believe that one of the principles involved in the High-Speed Rail process was a minimum impact on agricultural land. It appears some of the staff did not get that memo.

We will not bore you with all the problems associated with this route because they have already been presented to you by other public agencies and individuals who are outraged by this latest action of the High-Speed Rail Authority.

The residents of this area are reasonable and willing to work cooperatively with the High-Speed Rail Authority towards a project which works for you, but also respects our existing situation. However, this latest action makes it very difficult for people to work with you. Anyone who cooperates is now being viewed with suspicion as being part of a cabal who is selling out their own neighbors.

We strongly suggest you immediately eliminate route A3 from consideration.

Thank you.

Peter Koch, President
Merced County Farm Bureau

cc: Merced County Board of Supervisors
Chowchilla Water District
Le Grand-Athlone Water District
Merced Irrigation District
Madera County Farm Bureau
Merced County Farm Bureau Members