



**CITY OF LODI
COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

AGENDA TITLE: Consideration of the following actions regarding the California High-Speed and Regional Rail Program:

- a) Direct staff to prepare a letter confirming the City's desire to have the Union Pacific corridor alignment considered through Lodi.
- b) Authorize the Mayor to send a letter supporting Merced County's request for the High-speed Rail Heavy Maintenance Facility at the former Castle Air Force Base.

MEETING DATE: February 17, 2010

PREPARED BY: Community Development Director

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Consideration of the following actions regarding the California High-speed and Regional Rail Program:

- a) Direct staff to prepare a letter confirming the City's desire to have the Union Pacific corridor alignment considered through Lodi.
- b) Authorize the Mayor to send a letter supporting Merced County's request for the High-Speed Rail Heavy Maintenance Facility at the former Castle Air Force Base.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The City Council received a presentation at your shirtsleeve meeting on February 9th regarding the status of the California High-speed Rail program and the various alignments being considered in the Lodi vicinity. The environmental review process for the Merced to Sacramento segment has begun and a fundamental question about Lodi's preference for the alignment has been asked. In the current document, the alignment bypasses Lodi by sweeping from the Union Pacific corridor to the Central California Traction Line north and south of the City. The result of this alignment most likely would affect Lodi's ability to attain regional/commuter service.

The benefits and negatives to having the high speed alignment through Lodi were discussed. Based on the meetings that have occurred and the presentation by Mr. Schmidt from the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission, staff believes that it is Lodi's best interest to confirm an alignment that has the ability to utilize the Downtown Multi-Modal station at some time in the future. We feel this provides the best opportunity for possibility to be connected to a regional rail system that could ultimately connect Lodi to Sacramento and points south.

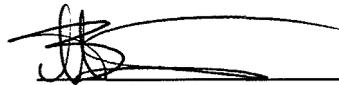
The second action that we are requesting involves the request from Merced County for support in having the Heavy Maintenance Facility for the High-speed Rail to be located at the former Castle Air Force Base. As noted in the letter attached, the facility has the potential to employ several thousand in direct and indirect jobs. This is a facility that benefits the Merced to

APPROVED:  _____
Blair King, City Manager

Sacramento segment by placing a required facility within the region. There are no alternative locations proposed that are closer to Lodi.

FISCAL IMPACT: *N/A*

FUNDING AVAILABLE: *N/A*



Konradt Bartlam
Community Development Director

Attachments:

- High-speed Rail informational handout
- Letter from Merced County dated February 3, 2010



FLY CALIFORNIA
Without ever leaving the ground.

WHAT IS THE HIGH-SPEED TRAIN?

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) is proposing high-speed train service for travel between Los Angeles and San Diego in the south to the San Francisco Bay Area and Sacramento in the north. This fast, safe, reliable system will travel at speeds in excess of 200 miles per hour and is forecast to carry up to 41 million passengers annually for the entire 800-mile high-speed train network by the year 2035.

MERCED TO SACRAMENTO HIGH-SPEED TRAIN PROJECT

The Merced-to-Sacramento section of the High-Speed Train (HST) system includes the City of Sacramento south to the City of Merced. Proposed route alternatives generally follow the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF), the Central California Traction (CCT) or the Union Pacific (UP) railroads throughout the section. HST stations are proposed in Sacramento, Stockton, Modesto, and Merced. (See detailed map inside.)

CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED TRAIN SYSTEM



IMPLEMENTATION AND CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE

PROGRAM - EIR/EIS

PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS & P

2004

2005

2006

2007

2008

2009

2010

2011

2012

ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS

California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) initiated the project-level environmental review process for the high-speed train project between Merced and Sacramento.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Authority has issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP), and the FRA published a Notice of Intent (NOI) for the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). As part of the initial phase of the environmental process, public scoping meetings will be hosted to receive public comment on the alternatives and issues that should be examined as part of the environmental analysis. Your comments will be considered in the preparation of the environmental document and will become part of the public record.



WHAT IS SCOPING?

Scoping is the first opportunity to become involved in the Merced-to-Sacramento HST project-level Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS). During the scoping process the public, as well as city, county, state, and federal agencies have an opportunity to provide comments on project alternatives and environmental impacts to be evaluated in the EIR/EIS. The purpose of the scoping process is to:

- identify public and agency concerns early in the environmental process
- receive input on alternatives and issues that will be examined in the Draft EIR
- save time in the overall process and facilitate an efficient EIR/EIS preparation process

FINAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

PRELIMINARY DESIGN

2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021

COME PARTICIPATE IN THE MERCED TO SACRAMENTO HIGH-SPEED TRAIN PROJECT!

The California High-Speed Rail Authority will host public scoping meetings along the project section to provide the public with an opportunity to learn about the project, ask questions and provide feedback about what project alternatives and environmental issues should be evaluated in the EIR/EIS. Please join us for one of the following Open House sessions:

STOCKTON

January 20, 2010

3:00 - 7:00 pm

San Joaquin Council of Governments
555 E. Weber Avenue, Stockton, CA

MERCED

January 21, 2010

3:00 - 7:00 pm

Merced Senior Center
755 W. 15th Street, Merced, CA

SACRAMENTO

January 27, 2010

3:00 - 7:00 pm

Amtrak Depot, Model Room
301 I Street, Sacramento, CA

MODESTO

January 28, 2010

3:00 - 7:00 pm

Modesto Center Plaza
1000 L Street, Modesto, CA

COMMENTS

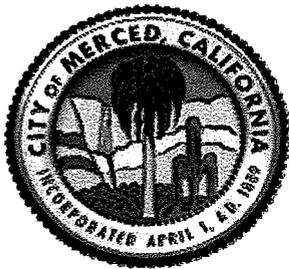
Public scoping comments regarding the Merced-to-Sacramento HST project will be accepted until Wednesday, February 26, 2010. Please send comments to Dan Leavitt, Deputy Director, Merced-to-Sacramento, California High-Speed Rail Authority, 925 L Street, Suite 1425, Sacramento, CA 95814. Comments can also be submitted via email to comments@hsr.ca.gov with the subject line "Merced to Sacramento HST."



CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED TRAIN PROJECT WILL:

- Be built on dedicated right-of-way, safely separated from cars and trucks, pedestrians and other rail traffic
- Use only a fraction of the energy of automobiles and airplanes
- Help free California from dependence on fossil fuels and reduce greenhouse gases that cause global warming.
- Reduce traffic – the statewide system will remove over 50 million auto trips per year
- An additional 600,000 jobs are expected to be created as a result of the economic growth the train system will bring to California
- Improve the environment – the energy efficient, high-speed trains will provide a transportation alternative that will help reduce air pollution.
- Provide better connections – provides a safer, time and cost efficient alternative to automobiles and will help relieve overcrowding at major airports

For more information visit www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov



February 3, 2010

RECEIVED

FEB 8 2010

Honorable Phil Katzakian
Mayor, City of Lodi
305 W Pine Street
Lodi, CA 95240

City Clerk
City of Lodi

SUBJECT: High Speed Rail

Dear Mayor Katzakian,

The Greater Merced High Speed Rail Committee has filed an Expression of Interest to the California High Speed Rail Authority to locate the Heavy Maintenance Facility (HMF) in Merced County. The Greater Merced High Speed Rail Committee selected **two** sites to submit to the California High Speed Rail Committee in order to be more **competitive** depending upon the rail alignment selected for the High Speed Rail line. The preferred site is the former Castle Air Force Base located on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe line. The proposed locations are the most northern sites presented to the Authority to locate their Heavy Maintenance Facility. The location of both Merced County sites will allow your citizens easy access to new well paying jobs that will benefit the entire northern San Joaquin Valley communities reduce our unemployment. The Heavy Maintenance Facility will employ 1,500 **with** the potential of another 3,000 indirect jobs being generated by firms interested in supplying the HMF with parts and services they will not have on site.

Besides benefiting our northern San Joaquin Valley region with additional jobs and opportunities for manufacturers, a HMF located in Merced County would also increase the likelihood that the Merced to Sacramento segment of the California High Speed Rail would be constructed in addition to funding provided for improvements to connecting commuter services.

We ask for your support in the form of a letter or resolution that will promote Merced County as the best location for placing a High Speed Rail HMF.

In addition, last week the Obama Administration announced that California is going to receive \$2,349,400,000 of the \$8 billion in stimulus funding for high-speed train development under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This is only half of the amount requested by the California High Speed Rail representatives which means some of the segments of high speed rail lines may not be built at this time, possibly leaving the Merced to Sacramento segment to be built years later. We believe it's important that we all communicate to the California High Speed Rail Authority that these ARRA funds be used to build track for the segment north of Fresno. Your efforts can make a difference.

Respectfully,

Bill Spnggs
Mayor, City of Merced

John Pedrozo
Supervisor, County of Merced

Cc: City Council, City of Lodi

CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED TRAIN SYSTEM



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CITY COUNCIL

PHIL KATZAKIAN, Mayor
SUSAN HITCHCOCK,
Mayor Pro Tempore
BOB JOHNSON
JOANNE MOUNCE
LARRY HANSEN

CITY OF LODI

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P.O. BOX 3006
LODI, CALIFORNIA 95241-1910
(209)333-6702 / FAX (209)333-6807
www.lodi.gov cityclerk@lodi.gov

BLAIR KING, City Manager
RANDI JOHL, City Clerk
D. STEPHEN SCHWABAUER
City Attorney

February 18, 2010

Bill Spriggs, Mayor
City of Merced
678 West 18th Street
Merced, California 95340

SUBJECT: GREATER MERCED HIGH SPEED RAIL COMMITTEE

Dear Mr. Spriggs,

Pursuant to your request, the City Council of the City of Lodi, at its regularly scheduled meeting of February 17, 2010, took action to support the Greater Merced High Speed Rail Committee in their interest to locate the California High Speed Rail Authority Heavy Maintenance Facility in Merced County.

The City of Lodi supports all efforts that will provide infrastructure investment and jobs to the region. Further, the City concurs that having this facility within the northern San Joaquin Valley area will increase the likelihood that the Merced to Sacramento segment of the High Speed Rail will be constructed.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the above, please feel free to contact Konradt Bartlam, Community Development Director at (209) 333-6711.

Sincerely,



Phil Katzakian
Mayor

C: John Pedrozo, Merced County Supervisor
Stacy Mortensen, San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission