



July 21, 2014

Dan Richard, Chairperson  
California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA)  
770 L Street, Suite 800  
Sacramento, CA 95814

*Transmitted via Certified US Mail and Email  
([info@hsr.ca.gov](mailto:info@hsr.ca.gov))*

Honorable Chairperson Richard:

This letter is to inform you that the San Fernando City Council has voted to oppose any proposed elevated or surface level rail line for the High-Speed Rail Project through the City of San Fernando. This decision was based on the potential adverse significant impacts to the City of San Fernando's historic downtown and civic center areas and the overall quality of life of our community.

The San Fernando City Council has come to this determination after hosting two community meetings regarding the proposed High-Speed Rail Project through the Southern California Region, and more specifically, the proposed surface level path of the high-speed train through San Fernando. The most recent meeting was held on May 14, 2014. At that meeting and subsequent to said meeting, the San Fernando City Council has heard concerns from local citizens that there is strong opposition to the option presented by CHSRA representatives. The proposed surface level high-speed rail line will require amongst other things, grade separations, sound walls, and double tracking through its 1.6 mile portion that runs through the City of San Fernando. The proposed rail line alignment at surface and an elevated rail design would effectively split the community in half and obliterate the City's historic downtown area and civic center area that are located on both sides of the proposed pathway of the High-Speed Rail Project.

As you are aware, the California High-Speed Rail Project was overwhelmingly approved by California voters in order to provide the State with the 220 miles-per-hour, high-speed rail as an alternative mode of transportation to vehicular and air travel under the premise that the project would improve access to good-paying jobs, cut pollution from smog-filled roadways, and reduce time wasted sitting in traffic while providing an alternative to high fuel prices. To this end, the San Fernando City Council, through its Northeast San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor Project Ad Hoc Committee, has taken a collaborative approach with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Authority and the City of Los Angeles to develop tram, bus rapid transit, and light rail transit alternatives that will further expand public transportation opportunities to residents of the North East San Fernando Valley and the City of San Fernando, but doing so in a manner that seeks to mitigate impacts to local residents and business along the proposed transit route.



In a similar manner, the San Fernando City Council requests that the CHSRA consider a High-Speed Rail Project alternative that looks at installing the proposed high-speed rail lines in a tunnel similar to the rail line design being proposed near downtown Los Angeles and in the City of Santa Clarita. The San Fernando City Council, through its existing North East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor Project Ad Hoc Committee, would be willing to have a continued discussion on a proposed tunnel design for the high-speed rail line through the City of San Fernando, including discussion about possible adaptive reuse/open space/greenway corridors alternatives that may be realized by installing the rail line underground. The San Fernando City Council supports the concept of a high-speed rail project to bring about greater mobility for all California residents and we would certainly like to continue to work with your agency through the process of open community dialogue to develop an appropriate high-speed rail alignment and design that mitigates the impacts to our community to the fullest extent possible before the CHSRA Board commits to one alignment/rail design.

However, at this time it is the San Fernando City Council's intent to inform the CHSRA Board and staff of its current opposition to the high-speed rail line being considered for construction as a surface or elevated rail line through the City of San Fernando. The San Fernando City Council feels that it should not be considered as a project alternative as part of the CEQA and NEPA review process due to its potential significant adverse impacts to the City of San Fernando's historic downtown and civic center areas and as a result to the potential adverse impact to the public health, safety, and general welfare of the City of San Fernando residents, business and property owners directly affected by the proposed High-Speed Rail Project.

Very Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Sylvia Ballin in black ink.

Sylvia Ballin  
Mayor

Handwritten signature of Jesse H. Avila in black ink.

Jesse H. Avila  
Councilmember

Handwritten signature of Antonio Lopez in black ink.

Antonio Lopez  
Councilmember

Handwritten signature of Robert C. Gonzales in black ink.

Robert C. Gonzales  
Mayor Pro Tem

Handwritten signature of Joel Fajardo in black ink.

Joel Fajardo  
Councilmember

cc: Honorable California High-Speed Rail Authority Board of Directors  
Honorable Tony Cárdenas, Congressman, 29<sup>th</sup> District  
Honorable Alex Padilla, State Senator, 20<sup>th</sup> District  
Honorable Raul Bocanegra, State Assemblymember, 39<sup>th</sup> District  
Honorable Zev Yaroslavsky, Los Angeles County Supervisor, 3<sup>rd</sup> District



**DAN RICHARD, CHAIRPERSON**

**California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA)**

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Honorable Felipe Fuentes, Los Angeles City Councilmember, 7<sup>th</sup> District  
Honorable Mitch Englander, Los Angeles City Councilmember, 12<sup>th</sup> District  
Honorable James C. Ledford Jr., Mayor, and City Councilmembers, City of Palmdale  
Honorable Mayor Laurene Weste and City Councilmembers, City of Santa Clarita  
Honorable Mayor David Gordon and City Councilmembers, City of Burbank  
Honorable Mayor Zareh Sinanyan and City Councilmember, City of Glendale  
Honorable Chairperson Eric Garcetti and Board of Directors, Metro