

1 I think that concludes our elected officials.
2 I do want to acknowledge in our crowd is -- I want to
3 acknowledge Gary Gallegos who's the head of San Diego
4 Association of Governments and has been a tremendous
5 transportation leader in the State of California.

6 okay. So with that -- oh, I'm sorry. Before
7 we do that, we have one other item. Thank you,
8 Mr. Morales, for bringing that to my attention.
9 Although he's not here in person today, Los Angeles
10 County Supervisor Michael Antonovich had a
11 communication with the High-Speed Rail Authority, and
12 he requested that his letter be read into the record.
13 So I'm going to ask Michelle Boehm of our staff to read
14 Mr. -- Supervisor Antonovich's letter into the record.

15 MS. BOEHM: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Board.
16 from Supervisor Antonovich. (Reading):

17 "As Supervisor for Los Angeles County's
18 5th District and immediate past Chairman of
19 the Los Angeles County Metropolitan
20 Transportation Authority, I take great
21 interest in the California High-Speed Rail's
22 potential to link Southern California to
23 northern California, to create a statewide
24 integrated passenger rail network and to
25 develop Palmdale and the Antelope Valley as a

1 high speed rail hub with a future connection
2 to Las Vegas via the High Desert Corridor and
3 XpressWest system.

4 During the course of our conversations
5 regarding the project, we have discussed the
6 complexities involved in completing the
7 high-speed rail system, such as crossing the
8 Tehachapi Mountains to the north of Los
9 Angeles County and running through Acton,
10 Agua Dulce, and the Santa Clarita Valley
11 within Los Angeles County, in order to reach
12 the San Fernando Valley and points further
13 south and east as you complete the system in
14 the years to come.

15 I encourage the Authority to review a
16 tunnel-oriented alternative between the
17 Palmdale station and the potential San
18 Fernando Valley station that would provide a
19 more direct, much faster, less costly and
20 less community-intrusive route between the
21 Antelope valley and the San Fernando valley.
22 Such an approach could provide a boon to the
23 Authority by eliminating conflict with the
24 Acton, Agua Dulce and Sand Canyon communities
25 in my district while also helping the project

1 reduce its costs and travel times in reaching
2 the Los Angeles basin.

3 Additionally, this concept would also
4 drive greater incentives to secure outside
5 funding for the statewide system through a
6 potential public-private partnership fostered
7 by the efforts of Xpresswest and L.A. Metro
8 to develop a high speed rail system from Los
9 Angeles Union Station to Las Vegas via
10 Palmdale and Victorville that would be
11 interoperable with California High-Speed Rail
12 between Los Angeles and Palmdale.

13 Preliminary P3 studies indicate that a
14 one-seat high-speed rail corridor between Los
15 Angeles and Las Vegas through Palmdale could
16 generate billions in revenue that could help
17 the Authority finance the segment between
18 Palmdale and Los Angeles.

19 Finally, in light of the potential
20 financial, capital and operational synergy
21 with a Los Angeles to Las Vegas high speed
22 train, I encourage your board to examine
23 potentially designating Palmdale as a station
24 in the Initial Operating Segment when you
25 update your ridership models when preparing

1 for the 2014 business plan. Understanding
2 the mandate to operate without subsidy, it is
3 my hope that the updated business plan could
4 provide the ridership necessary to initiate
5 service upon reaching Palmdale with upgraded
6 Metrolink providing an interim connection
7 between the system and the rest of Southern
8 California.

9 Thank you again for your leadership in
10 working with the many communities in my
11 district, particularly the Santa Clarita
12 valley, Acton, Agua Dulce and Antelope Valley
13 communities, to hear their concerns and find
14 solutions to whatever issues emerge as you
15 develop the High-Speed Rail system.
16 Development of this new alignment between
17 Palmdale and Burbank can provide a win-win
18 solution for both the Authority and the many
19 communities I represent.

20 Sincerely, Mike Antonovich."

21 CHAIRMAN RICHARD: Thank you, Miss Boehm.
22 We will be responding to the Supervisor. We appreciate
23 his input and his support.

24 Turning now to other members of the public,
25 we'll hear first from David Schwegel, followed by Linda