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April 5, 2019

Re: *High Speed Railroad*

The S.A.F.E. coalition supports the Federal Railroad Administration decision not to further fund the California High Speed Rail Authority 938 million dollars towards the California High Speed Train. Ten reasons for this are as follows:

1. The reports commissioned by CHSRA from the Mineta Transportation Institute are tainted by conflict of interest.
2. The Draft 2017 Geotechnical Report provides multitude of fact, why tunneling through the Angeles Forrest was technically unfeasible. It was so devastating that it was not put on the CHSRA website. SAFE had to make a Public Records Request in 2018 to obtain the report.
3. CHSRA paid for a study of tunnels. The study, by the Mineta Transportation Institute was a waste of money because it was completed before the 2017 geotechnical study was completed (or even begun). A geotechnical report is required prior to any tunneling report.
4. CHSRA admits that it wasted money because it started construction too early so that it could access other the federal grant money. The withholding of funds by the FRA at this time is with interest, about equal to the amount of money CHSRA has admitted wasting.
5. The original cost estimated was 33 billion dollars but has ballooned to at least 77,000,000,000 dollars (that's a lot of zeros). There is no source of money on the horizon to complete the train. There is no need to throw good money after bad.
6. Because if its failure to be transparent, its hiring of a highly conflicted Mineta Transportation Institute, and its failure to put the 2017 geotechnical report in the website, CHSRA cannot be trusted to create,

monitor and supervise the preparation of environmental documentation (EIR/EIS).

7. CHRSA has spent over \$22,000,000 on attorney fees to lobby or interact with the Federal Railroad Administration. That money would have been better spent on actually building the train.
8. The CHRSA has wasted both time and money as detailed in the California State Audit. They have wasted more than the FRA is withholding.
9. The CHRSA originally stated that the train needed \$9,000,000,000 in private enterprise support to complete the project. To date NO private support has been forthcoming despite requests. This "project" will never be completed.
10. The CHRSA funding could better be used on other projects such as water, education or local transit infrastructure projects.

Very truly yours,


William E. Eick

WEE/jc