

**LOS ANGELES
EQUINE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:

1st District: Julian Sandoval
2nd District: Nick Pool
3rd District: Jill Haber
4th District: Lynn Brown
5th District: Melanie Coto
6th District: Mary Benson
7th District: Dale Gibson
8th District: Todd LaVergne



**Eric Garcetti
MAYOR**

Chair: Kevin Regan,
Assistant General Manager
Dept. of Recreation and Parks

9th District: Vacant
10th District: Kevin Atkins
11th District: Larry Watts
12th District: Mary Kaufman
13th District: Gene Gilbert
14th District: Vacant
15th District: Vacant
Mayor's Office: Scott Perez

RE: High Speed Rail

January 27, 2015

Mayor and City Councilpersons:

The Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee (LAEAC), a City Council created Committee, supports all Equestrians in the City of Los Angeles, in addition to protection and promotion of the equestrian lifestyle.

One of the special resources of our city are its neighborhoods with horse country and semi-rural delights. The Northeast San Fernando Valley communities of Kagel Canyon, Lake View Terrace, Sunland and Shadow Hills are among the most extensive remaining intact equestrian areas of the city. We have just learned of actions by the High Speed Rail Authority (HSRA) that threaten these neighborhoods with a project that would destroy them if implemented.

The legislation for the California High Speed Rail Project (HSRP) specified that the route of the train would follow existing transportation and utility corridors. Last year, without notice to the affected neighborhoods, the HSRA ignored that requirement and initiated a study of what it refers to as the East Corridor Alternatives for the Palmdale to Burbank section of the HSRP. Those alternatives would require, among other things, extensive and expensive tunneling through pristine Angelus National Forest lands and the construction of elevated tracks through the long existing residential equestrian communities of the Northeast Valley. The East Corridor Alternatives are contrary to what the voters approved when voting for the HSRP and are inconsistent with its enabling legislation. The HSRA should immediately remove the East Corridor Alternatives from further consideration as a potential route for the Palmdale to Burbank section of the HSRP. This will not only protect these communities, but avoid the wasteful expenditure of public monies pursuing studies of an alternative that should never have been considered in the first instance.



Given the HSRA's failure to reach out to and work with communities that would be adversely impacted by the East Corridor Alternative, we feel that the HSRA has failed to consider the voices of communities who face the negative impacts from the SR 14 Corridor Alternative.

We urge the Mayor and City Council to take immediate action to assure that the HSRP communicate with and listen to all communities along the SR 14 Corridor so that they are not surprised by and do not suffer from avoidable adverse environmental impacts from the HSRP.

The Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee is unified in their support of the equestrian areas that will be sacrificed by putting the rail through the north east valley and beyond. Angeleno Equestrians can't afford to lose a rural, equestrian area to expensive tunnels and endless construction in the northeast of Los Angeles in the San Gabriel Mountains.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale Gibson", is centered on the page. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and "G".

Dale Gibson, President
Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee