



March 16, 2016

Contact: Dave DePinto

President, Shadow Hills Property Owners Assn.

310-502-7928; ddepinto@depintomoraes.com

**MEDIA ADVISORY – PLEASE ATTEND
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS MEETING
HIGH SPEED TRAIN PLANS REMAIN OFF TRACK!**

DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2016

TIME: SAN FERNANDO VALLEY COG MEETING: 1:30-3:30 P.M.
AGENDA: <http://sfvcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/COG-Agenda-March-2016.pdf>

LOCATION: VALLEY MUNICIPAL BUILDING, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VAN NUYS, CA
14410 SYLVAN STREET, 2ND FLOOR (INTERSECTION WITH VAN NUYS BLVD.)

WHAT: At the San Fernando Valley COG meeting, Dan Richard, Chairman, California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA), will present a high speed train status report. CHSRA recently released its 2016 Business Plan which includes a major shift in focus/timing from Southern California to Northern California. Yesterday, as part of a new SAA Study, CHSRA announced several route changes that spare numerous, long-suffering communities the burden and impacts of above ground routes. We congratulate those communities for their perseverance and newfound freedom. However, the work of CHSRA, COG, and local elected officials and communities is not done. **This is the perfect time to “finish the job” of eliminating flawed alternatives and properly studying environmental impacts.** We have three goals:

1. **Immediate removal of ALL remaining above-ground route elements in densely populated or sensitive environmental areas from further environmental study or consideration.**
2. **Due to failure of CHSRA to execute transparent, collaborative, independent and third-party environmental studies related to water, seismicity, tunneling and equine issues, as recommended in 2015 by the community AND local elected officials, we call for direct involvement by our elected officials and community leaders to convene such studies.**
3. **We call for withdrawal of the recently released Equine and Tunneling studies, prepared at CHSRA’s request by the Mineta Transportation Institute, from the environmental record, due to flawed findings, lack of transparency and collaboration, and conflicts of interest.**

WHO: Comment will be provided by the public and members of the COG, which includes elected officials in the San Fernando Valley from the City and County of Los Angeles; and the cities of Burbank, Glendale, San Fernando and Santa Clarita.