



LORI GLASGOW
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 383
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
(213) 974-1411 • FAX (213) 620-0636

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July 1, 2016

Dan Richard, Chair
California High-Speed Rail Authority
770 L Street, Suite 1160
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Richard:

RE: Refined E-2 Alignment Alternative for the Palmdale-to-Burbank High-Speed Rail Project Segment

We are writing to express our opposition to the Refined E-2 Alignment, as currently proposed, for the California High-Speed Rail Authority's (Authority) Palmdale-to-Burbank High-Speed Rail project segment, and any other variation of this alignment that would cross the Big Tujunga Wash at or above grade.

The proposed Refined E-2 Alignment poses tremendous impacts to local communities (e.g., Lake View Terrace and Shadow Hills), environmental resources like the Big Tujunga Wash, equestrian activities and the general quality of life for this part of Los Angeles County. The Refined E-2 Alignment also presents environmental justice concerns, as it will divide the Lake View Terrace community through an at-grade alignment.

In June 2015, Supervisors Antonovich and Kuehl requested that the Authority expedite the hydrological and technical studies, which will provide critical information regarding potential impacts on areas of concern, including the communities of Shadow Hills, Lakeview Terrace, and Acton, as well as the recently recognized San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. We have yet to receive clarification on that process or a timeline for their completion.

Chairman Dan Richard
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Any proposed route that threatens severe impacts to homes, quality of life, and sensitive environmental areas raises tremendous concerns. For these reasons, the County of Los Angeles opposes the Refined E-2 Alignment, as currently proposed, for the Palmdale-to-Burbank High-Speed Rail project segment. We also request that the Authority clarify the process for expediting the hydrological and technical studies and indicate when they will be made available to the public.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



HILDA L. SOLIS
Chair of the Board
Supervisor, First District



MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Supervisor, Second District



DON KNABE
Supervisor, Fourth District



SHEILA KUEHL
Supervisor, Third District



MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Supervisor, Fifth District

c: Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation