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CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY

February 19, 2009

Hon. Heyward Robinson, Mayor
City of Menlo Park
701 Laurel Street
Menlo Park, CA 94025-3483

Re: September 25, 2007, Letter from City of Menlo Park Commenting on the Draft Bay Area to Central Valley High-Speed Train (HST) Program EIR/EIS

Dear Mayor Robinson:

It has come to the California High-Speed Rail Authority's attention that the City attempted to send a comment letter to the Authority during the comment period for the Draft Bay Area to Central Valley High-Speed Train (HST) Program Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS). Regrettably, the Authority has no record of having received that letter of September 25, 2007 during the EIR/EIS process, and became aware of the letter only after litigation was filed challenging the EIR/EIS. The Authority would have liked to have responded to this letter as we did for all of the comments that the Authority received during the EIR/EIS process. The Authority obtained a copy of the City's September 25, 2007, letter with four attachments through its litigation attorneys only after the litigation was under way. Please be assured that the Authority takes the City's comments in this letter seriously. Authority staff and consultants therefore have carefully reviewed the letter and herewith respond to the issues raised in the City's letter by providing the City with information on how such issues were analyzed and discussed during the Program EIR/EIS process, as well as how those issues will continue to be examined during the more detailed project-level environmental review process for the San Francisco to San Jose section of the HST system. The responses are consistent with responses the Authority would have provided you during the EIR/EIS process, and did provide in response to other comment letters that were received on the same issues, but also contain information reflecting new developments since the close of that process on July 8, 2008.

The Authority urges the City actively to participate in the project-level environmental review process for the San Francisco to San Jose section of the HST system. For your convenience, a copy of the revised CEQA Notice of Preparation is enclosed. The deadline for scoping comments has been extended to April 6, 2009. The Authority also invites the City of Menlo Park to join with other Peninsula cities in a working group to provide valuable input in the Alternatives Analysis process and on-going environmental and engineering studies. Dominic

Spaethling, the Authority's Regional Manager for the Caltrain Corridor, will contact you regarding the formation of such working group which we anticipate will play an important role in the project-level EIR/EIS process for the San Francisco to San Jose Segment of the HST Project Phase one.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Quentin L. Kopp". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Quentin L. Kopp
Chairman

Enclosures

Responses to comments in City of Menlo Park Letter (9/25/07)

Extension of Scoping Period for San Francisco to San Jose HST Project EIR/EIS (2/19/09)

Revised Notice of Preparation of a Project Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for a San Francisco to San Jose High-Speed Train (HST) System (01/08/09)

California High-Speed Train Business Plan (November 2008)

High-Speed Rail System Business Plan (June 2000)

Standard Responses, Final Program EIR/EIS, volume 3

Responses to City of Menlo Park comments and resolution on the first California High Speed Rail Program EIR/EIS dated August 26, 2004