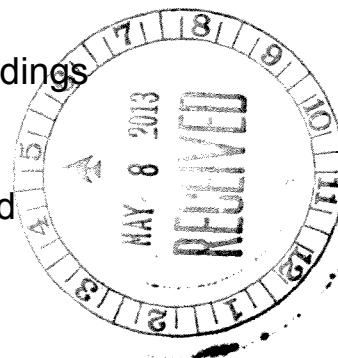


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May 8, 2013

The Honorable Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S. W., Room 100
Washington, DC 20434-0001

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Office of Proceedings
May 8, 2013
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Public Record



Subject: Docket: FD_35724_0: California High Speed Rail Authority Construction
Exemption for the Merced, Madera & Fresno Counties

My name is Carol Walters. I am a resident of Hanford (Kings County), California.

1. As a resident of Kings County and having worked as a medical professional (RN/ Public Health Nurse), the transportation services provided by Amtrak are an essential and vital service for Kings County. It is imperative the Amtrak services continue for Corcoran and Hanford! Amtrak serves within the county while also providing transportation for the surrounding areas of the neighboring counties of Tulare, Kern and Fresno that access the Amtrak trains in Hanford and Corcoran. The High Speed Rail Authority has stated the Amtrak services will be done away with and no plans to replace the same availability of service of Amtrak which is so vital to Kings County.

Amtrak service also provides an essential daily means of transportation for folks for riding to and from work. Many folks ride to and from Hanford to Corcoran and from Hanford or Corcoran to Fresno for work.

Amtrak is also the transportation means of many folks in this area for travel to all points within the USA. Numerous tickets are for points to Southern California as well as to Northern California. Many of these are for business related appointments and services.

2. As a resident of Kings County who is directly implicated with our home and property in the western alignment for Kings County, I have grave concerns for the impact of health issues resulting from the numerous trains on us the all those in and adjacent to the rail pathway. Issues resulting from the constant stirring of the dust carrying the coccidiomycosis fungal spores causing Valley Fever, for the under estimated noise factors along with the prevalent vibrations that have been under stated. These concerns are extremely enhanced by the lack of integrity manifested by Authority personnel in attempting to have any information from the Authority as to the severity of impact to our property.

There is extreme necessity of concern for the medical issues related to the EIS in compliance with CEQA & NEPA for the Merced to Fresno area being addressed for request of exemption by the California High Speed Rail Authority. There is also severe concern for the transportation needs of Kings County to be disrupted for vital services provided by Amtrak.

As a resident of Kings County who resides in the Fresno to Bakersfield alignment, I am gravely concerned for the implications of what happens to and within the Merced to Fresno alignment being duplicated and allowed in subsequent areas of alignment to follow. Therefore, **it is of utmost concern for your diligent review resulting the final decision which I plead is not to approve the California High Speed Rail Authority's request for an exemption.**

Thank you Ms. Brown for your time essential to the thorough review expressed by me and numerous others related to this very perplexing project.

Sincerely,



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