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Via Electronic Mail: DraftBP2022@hsr.ca.gov

April 7, 2022

Mr. Brian P. Kelly, Chief Executive Officer
California High-Speed Rail Authority
770 L Street, Suite 1180
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Draft 2022 Business Plan Comments regarding the Los Angeles to Anaheim Project Segment

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the California High Speed Rail Authority's (CHSRA) Draft 2022 Business Plan. The Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) is following the CHSRA's activities closely to assess potential environmental impacts in Riverside County. On September 23, 2020, RCTC submitted a letter to CHSRA in response to the Revised Notice of Preparation urging consultation and communication with RCTC prior to the preparation and circulation of the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIR/EIS) for the Los Angeles to Anaheim Project (Project) segment. This still needs to take place and we wish to be contacted to discuss the Project, especially given the timeline stated in the Draft 2022 Business Plan, which identifies a Record of Decision in the fourth quarter of 2023¹.

The purpose of this letter is to reiterate that RCTC is a signatory to the San Bernardino Shared Use Agreement (SUA) with BNSF and the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) which governs the San Bernardino Subdivision (SBS) line. Under the SUA, BNSF granted RCTC and OCTA the exclusive right to use the SBS for all possible "Passenger Transportation Uses" (other than a limited exception for Amtrak intercity rail service). Third parties wishing to use the SBS for Passenger Transportation Uses (such as CHSRA) must seek the approval of RCTC with respect to the SBS segment east of Fullerton. Similar approval from OCTA and RCTC is also required with respect to the SBS segment between Redondo Junction and Fullerton. Subsequently, these rights would identify RCTC as a responsible party for the Project under the California Environmental Quality Act, therefore, CHSRA is required to consult with RCTC before circulating its Draft EIR/EIS.

RCTC is supportive of expanding passenger rail service throughout Southern California and is committed to ensuring community and environmental concerns are addressed. We look forward to engaging with CHSRA to ensure the SUA matter and other environmental impacts to Riverside County are addressed properly. Please do not hesitate to call me at (951) 787-7141 or amayer@rctc.org to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anne E. Mayer".

Anne Mayer
Executive Director

¹ https://hsr.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2022_Draft_Business_Plan.pdf, p. 39.