



April 9, 2024

California High-Speed Rail Authority  
770 L Street, Suite 620  
Sacramento, Ca 95814

RE: 2024 California High-Speed Rail Authority 2024 Business Plan

Chairman Richards,

Merced County Farm Bureau (MCFB) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the 2024 California High-Speed Rail Authority's (CHSRA) 2024 Business Plan (Business Plan). As you know, our organization has been watchful of CHSRA following voter approval in 2008. During this time, we have been critical of the project and continue to have concerns as it progresses forward.

We understand that funding has been acquired through several programs from state and federal governmental agencies, however costs continue to balloon. The Business Plan indicates that private funding is being pursued, yet we question if that will ever come to fruition. Project delays will continue with areas such as the Pacheco Pass still requiring "critical geotechnical investigations...that are essential to completing the connection to the Central Valley" (Chapter 2, page 39). Funding has been and will be a top concern.

The Business Plan states that CHSRA will work to "make high-speed rail a priority for Rainy Day Infrastructure Funds" (Chapter 3, page 62). We question if this is going to be the best use of these funds as there are more than likely other, current infrastructure needs that require updating or maintenance. We would encourage the state to focus on those areas rather than CHSRA.

We have continued to ask CHSRA the cost of a single ticket from San Francisco to Los Angeles. In our conversations we have been directed to the Business Plan and, although figures are listed, this does not provide direct information for the public. The monetary figures provided are projected ridership, projected revenue, and costs to build, all listed in millions of dollars. While one can break down the values, this does not provide constituents with the transparent costs to ride. It is disheartening that this information continues to be hidden.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment and look forward to additional conversations in the future. Our organization will remain watchful as the CHSRA continues to build and work towards overcoming monetary challenges. MCFB welcomes the opportunity for continued conversation as work begins in Merced County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Breanne Vandenberg".

Breanne Vandenberg  
Executive Director

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