



**OFFICE OF THE  
INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL

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*Inspector General*  
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February 26, 2026

The Governor of California  
President pro Tempore of the Senate  
Speaker of the Assembly  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, California

Dear Governor and Legislative Leaders:

Various news media outlets have raised concerns regarding the potential for a conflict of interest involving the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) and a person reported to be his fiancée (fiancée) who recently began working for the consulting firm KPMG—a firm that has served as a financial advisor on the high-speed rail project for many years. Given the number of inquiries we received in response to the media reports, the Office of the Inspector General, California High-Speed Rail (OIG-HSR) performed an assessment of this matter and found no evidence of wrongdoing.<sup>1</sup>

Our conclusion is based on the following facts:

- The Authority's use of KPMG as a contracted advisor predates the appointment of the current CEO in August 2024 by more than 15 years.
- Our review of relevant invoices and consultant rosters going back to 2024 found no evidence that the CEO's fiancée had performed work on the Authority contract with KPMG.
- The most recent KPMG contract—executed in September 2025—was the result of a competitively bid procurement process, which was overseen by the Department of

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<sup>1</sup> OIG-HSR is an independent government entity. Our assessment was limited to the subject discussed in this letter and is not a part of or otherwise related to any ongoing review of this or other matters by the Authority, its board of directors, or any other part of state government.

General Services and included an evaluation of bids by a panel of Authority subject matter experts that did not include the CEO.

- Although the most recent contract with KPMG was executed during the current CEO's tenure, the CEO's fiancée appears to have started working for KPMG in January 2026. Given this timing, the information we reviewed produced no evidence that the CEO's relationship with his fiancée represented a potential conflict with KPMG requiring mitigation or disclosure at the time of the contract's execution.

With the Annual Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) due April 2026, we encourage the CEO to discuss this matter with Authority legal counsel to determine whether this relationship would need to be disclosed, whether any reportable financial interest or required disclosure arises on the upcoming Form 700, and whether any disclosure or recusal obligations may apply when matters involving KPMG are up for board consideration. Authority legal counsel can then advise on applicable legal requirements and whether any mitigations, such as CEO recusal from decisions involving future KPMG contracts, are necessary going forward.

Respectfully submitted,



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