CITY OF
SAN JOSE
CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY

Chuck Reed
MAYOR

August 16, 2010

Mr. Roelof van Ark
Chief Executive Officer
California High-Speed Rail Authority
925 L Street, Suite 1425
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. van Ark,

We congratulate on your new role with the California High Speed Rail Authority, and we welcome your leadership. As you know, the City of San José has strongly supported the High Speed Rail project, and our Department of Transportation officials have collaborated well with your staff to explore the benefits and impacts of various alternative alignments through San José.

Nonetheless, no one should confuse the City of San José's support for the project with an acceptance of unmitigated impacts. Our community is very concerned with the potential visual, acoustical, and other impacts of an elevated alignment through Downtown San José at Diridon Station and the surrounding Gardner and Delmas Park neighborhoods.

We write to continue to urge the CHSRA to retain an underground alignment through the Diridon Station within the alternatives analyzed in the environmental process. Contrary to the conclusions reached by CHSRA staff it its June and August reports, we believe that the underground option merits full study, so that the best possible decision can be reached about an appropriate alignment.

In January of this year, we signed a letter to the CHSRA Board, urging that full study of the best underground and elevated options through the conclusion of the alternatives analysis process. In June of this year, our staff presented the preliminary findings regarding San Jose-to-Merced alignment alternatives to our Council's Transportation and Environment Committee. Unanimously, that committee again urged staff to push for full study of both an underground and elevated alignment. The full Council will again take up this issue in September.

If an elevated alternative is ultimately identified as the preferred option, specific mitigation measures for an elevated alternative must be fully studied and explicitly required within the text of the EIR.

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In the meantime, our staff will continue negotiations with the CHSRA for a Cooperation Agreement regarding commitments for specific mitigations of any acoustic, aesthetic, and vibration-related impacts from any potential elevated structure. Such an agreement could help alleviate the concerns in our community about potential impacts.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. We look forward to your August 27th visit to San José.

Sincerely,

Chuck Reed
Mayor

Sam Liccardo
Councilmember
District Three

Pierluigi Oliverio
Councilmember
District Six