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September 20, 2017

County Board of Supervisors
1075 E. Santa Clara Street, 2nd Floor T3
San Jose, CA 95116

RE: High Speed Rail

Dear Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of the Morgan Hill City Council, I would like to thank the Board of Supervisors for engaging in the High Speed Rail project. This project has significant implications for Morgan Hill and South County as it relates to the environment, businesses, residents, and schools, among others.

The purpose of our letter is to share with the Board the position Morgan Hill has taken regarding the project and make you aware of recent efforts that could also impact the project.

As the Board may be aware, over the last couple of months we have convened a team of representatives from the cities of Gilroy, San Jose and Morgan Hill and County of Santa Clara to explore areas of common ground and see if a locally preferred alternative could be generated. We would like to thank the County staff for their participation in this effort and we hope we can continue to meet to explore solutions that are appropriate for South County that protect all shared interests, including protecting private property, natural resources and traffic and circulation and support economic vitality.

The project is currently envisioned to travel south from San Jose, along Monterey Road, adjacent to the Union Pacific Rail Road (UPRR) tracks. Once in South County, around Bernal Avenue, there are two main alternatives through Morgan Hill, one that continues alongside the UPRR tracks on a 10' berm (at grade) and a second alternative alongside the west side of Highway 101 in a (up to) 80' viaduct. The alternatives being considered through Morgan Hill would permanently impact the character of Morgan Hill and our residents' quality of life.

On December 9, 2016, the City of Morgan Hill issued an EIR/EIS Supplemental Scoping Letter to the CHSRA offering additional detail on the range and magnitude of impacts from the various alternatives (attached). In this letter, the City strongly recommended that CHSRA follow an alignment that only uses the current, public Highway 101 right-of-way, avoiding impacts to residential neighborhoods, schools and existing businesses and retail centers that are of immense

importance to the City's fiscal sustainability. In this letter, the following guiding principles were presented:

1. Avoid at all costs residential, school, and commercial impacts where existing public right-of-way exists
2. The most advanced engineering and design solutions shall be utilized to address the real-life issues of constructing California's most ambitious public works project in existing urban centers
3. Ensure economic vitality for the City, its residents and businesses during construction
4. Use the HSR train to bring benefit to the community by providing telecommunications infrastructure, recycled water, WiFi, and public art, among other possible benefits
5. Construction shall occur sequentially from Central Valley to San Jose

Subsequently, the City submitted a request for a public review period of 90 days for the Draft EIR/EIS, in which the preferred alignment would be identified. In addition to these communications, the City of Morgan Hill has engaged the services of a rail expert to explore the feasibility of a freeway-only alternative. We are in the process of completing that work and we expect to be able to share it with our City Council and the County/Cities team in mid-October.

We hope you find this information useful. Please feel free to contact me or Edith Ramirez, Economic Development Director at edith.ramirez@morganhill.ca.gov with any questions or clarifications for the above.

Sincerely,



Steve Tate
Mayor
City of Morgan Hill
17515 Peak Ave, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

C: Morgan Hill City Council

Attachments:

- A. Supplemental Scoping Letter and Issues Letter
- B. Potential Property Impact Analysis, David J. Powers
- C. Transportation, Land Use and Construction Impact Analysis, Hexagon Transportation Consultants Inc.
- D. Noise and Vibration Concerns, Illingworth & Rodkin, Inc.