



Tony Cárdenas
Congress of the United States

29th District, California

October 5, 2018

Dan Richard
Chair, California High-Speed Rail Authority
770 L Street, Suite 620
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Richard:

As a Californian and Member of Congress, I am enthusiastic about the ongoing construction of the California High-Speed Rail (HSR) line. This project is putting Californians to work, creating desperately needed construction jobs and opportunities for small businesses across the state. Once completed, HSR will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, spur economic development, and provide Angelenos with another option to travel to San Francisco and our state capital. Yet, while I fully support these efforts and outcomes, we must balance the needs of local communities and keep the character of neighborhoods intact.

I write today out of concern as the Representative of my community, the San Fernando Valley. It has come to my attention that the project is currently planning to have the HSR run at grade or above ground in the 29th district. While I understand that every option will have impacts on homes, businesses, and commuters, I urge you to consider building in a way that will keep the HSR line below ground. To run above ground, the HSR would likely disrupt established communities and create unnecessary disturbances for my constituents. I would implore you to listen to the very real concerns of the communities that would be directly impacted by these plans and to find a way of avoiding this course of action. If this route is unavoidable, I would ask that you provide the people of the 29th district with the following information:

- A description of the routes being considered and an explanation for their purpose,
- The effect these routes would have on established communities including any potential interruptions to those communities,
- The engineering or structural reason for at grade or above ground routes, and
- If the purpose is to create a topping point whether this can be accomplished underground.

I look forward to working with you and your team to make this project a success and a model for the rest of the nation. If you have any questions or would like to further discuss this letter, please do not hesitate to reach me at (202) 225-6131.

Sincerely,

TONY CÁRDENAS
Member of Congress

Cc: Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council