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Assembly California Legislature



LUZ M. RIVAS
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-NINTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT
REVENUE AND TAXATION
SPECIAL COMMITTEES
ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE ETHICS

September 26, 2018

Brian Kelly, Chief Executive Officer
California High Speed Rail Authority
770 L St #1160
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: High Speed Rail Preferred Route

Dear Chief Executive Officer Kelly:

As you know, securing public confidence and trust is critical as the High Speed Rail Authority (HSRA) seeks to identify future train routes that will undoubtedly impact constituents in the 39th Assembly District.

Many of the houses and apartments along the planned routes, specifically those along the refined SR 14 alternative, have been home to generations of residents that fear they will be displaced as a result of what is being labeled by the HSRA as a "balanced" construction route proposal. However, for many of these residents, there remains a significant amount of unanswered questions about the future of their communities. At a recent informational hearing on High Speed Rail in Sunland-Tujunga, several of my constituents asked basic questions about potential impacts and were told that the first step is identifying a "preferred route." For these residents, understanding the impacts to their communities should be the first step.

From a public policy standpoint I find the need to identify a proposed route through the San Fernando Valley premature, especially considering the significant funding gaps identified by the Assembly Transportation Committee in their oversight hearing: Review of the Draft 2018 Business Plan for the California High-Speed Rail Authority¹.

I am very concerned that adopting a preferred route, prior to identifying funding for existing HSR construction, causes unnecessary anxiety. Therefore, I strongly urge you to delay adopting any preferred route until the concerns identified above have been resolved.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Luz Rivas".

Luz Rivas, Assemblymember, 39th District

¹ <https://atrn.assembly.ca.gov/sites/atrn.assembly.ca.gov/files/Background%20paper.pdf>

CC: Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council

