



Californians for High Speed Rail

A Coalition of High Speed Rail Supporters ■ 105 San Jose Ave., SF, CA 94110 ■ 415.826.1219 ■ www.publicvisionresearch.com/hsr

January 26, 2006

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Senate President pro Tem Don Perata
Speaker of the Assembly Fabian Nunez
Assemblymembers and Senators

Re: Support High Speed Rail & Public Transportation

Dear Honorable Governor, Senators and Assemblymembers:

Californians for High Speed Rail, a statewide coalition of high speed rail supporters, is outraged that both high speed rail and public transportation in general is being shelved in the bond proposals being circulated in Sacramento. Why has our state leadership suddenly abandoned both high speed rail and public transportation in favor of a massive road building frenzy, all with no public input? We implore all and former supporters of high speed rail and public transportation to recommit to these critical improvements.

It is simply not true that the public doesn't support these projects enthusiastically. The fact of the matter is, these bond proposals have just dropped from the sky with a vision for the future that includes absolutely no vision for solving the state's transportation challenges. The public simply has not had time to react to this sham process of state planning. Once people realize that their leadership in the State Capitol has abandoned the high speed rail project and other forms of public transportation in favor of more of traffic congestion, pollution and sprawl, they will be outraged. We expect better from our state leaders.

High speed rail is not some futuristic fantasy as many lawmakers seem to believe. All over the world, high speed rail is being built and used with phenomenal success. Japan, China, Taiwan, and Korea are building and using high speed rail lines today. Europe is building a dense web of high speed rail lines across the continent. Even Mexico is moving ahead to build a high speed rail line with in the next ten years. High speed rail works around the world, and California risks far behind even Mexico in our transportation infrastructure if we delay any longer.

By abandoning high speed rail now and completely ignoring public transportation for the next 10 to 20 years, state leaders are dooming the state to a terrible quality of life. For people who care about this state, the solutions of the past are completely unacceptable. Please lead and move this state into the 21st Century.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Daniel Krause
Executive Director, Californians for High Speed Rail