



## *Californians for High Speed Rail*

A Statewide Coalition of High Speed Rail Supporters | 337 Green St. San Francisco, CA 94133 | 510.931.0384

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

July 10, 2009

### **Re: Remove Anti-High Speed Rail Language from Proposed 2009-2010 Budget**

Dear Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger:

Thanks to your leadership over the past several years, California is now the national leader in the development of high speed rail. California is in line to receive billions in stimulus money for our high speed rail network over the next few months – in our moment of great economic need. The stimulus funds have given new momentum to the California system that would otherwise have stalled due the current economic downturn. However, last minute language recently inserted into the budget bill will require the re-opening of the already completed program-level environmental impact report for the Bay Area section of the high speed rail project. This language will likely cost the state well over a billion dollars in Federal stimulus money being allocated this October, as it will create uncertainty about the state's commitment to the project in Northern California. Additionally, the lengthy delays caused by this language could have severe economic impacts on the state within the next year. **This language needs to be removed before the final budget deal is reached and voted on.**

The cities, counties, and transportation authorities of the San Francisco Bay Area have put together a unified strategy and have requested for \$1.6 billion in stimulus funding for high speed rail projects between San Francisco and San Jose. Most or all of those projects could be deemed ineligible if the Federal Government decides that the language in the budget means that the previous environmental studies and clearance are reopened and need to be redone. Some projects like the new Transbay Terminal in San Francisco are in final design and will begin construction within the year. The loss of stimulus money would be tragic, given the ongoing recession and its impacts on employment and tax revenue. Loss of these federal funds and its impacts are not something California can afford right now.

**Please work to remove this disruptive and damaging language from the final budget bill is so California can maximizing its share of Federal economic stimulus.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian Stanke, Executive Director,  
Californians for High Speed Rail

cc: Honorable Senator Dean Florez  
Honorable Speaker of the Assembly Karen Bass  
Honorable Senator Barbara Boxer  
Honorable Senator Diane Feinstein  
Honorable Congressperson Nancy Pelosi