

July 7, 2009

Action Alert: Anti-High Speed Rail in the Budget threatens stimulus funding in Northern California

Hello High Speed Rail Supporter,

Quick action alert from Californians For High Speed Rail. We are back in business and will be sending you a follow up communication in the near future about what we are working. For now, please read this urgent action alert.

****ACTION ALERT****

Language inserted last-minute into the proposed California budget will delay design work for the San Francisco-to-San Jose section of the High Speed Rail network and risks making the section ineligible for Federal stimulus funding.

Less than a month after the Bay Area government and transit providers united around a common strategy to seek over a billion dollars of stimulus for shared Caltrain and High Speed Rail related upgrades between San Francisco and San Jose, state legislators behind the scenes actions may cost the state any chance for that stimulus money.

The proposed budget language would force the California High Speed Rail Authority to reopen program-level EIR (approved in 2005) and examine corridors such Highway 101 and I-280, which are not feasible nobody really wants. This is an obvious delay tactic by the foes of high speed rail.

If this language is not removed from this bill, it is likely that Northern California will be ineligible for the high speed rail stimulus funding the Obama administration, which is set to begin flowing in October.

Please call the Senate Majority Leader Dean Florez at (916) 651-4016, Speaker of the Assembly Karen Bass at (916) 319-2047, and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger at 916-445-2841. Additionally, if you have time, please contact your local state representative and senator.

Please Ask:

Remove the budget language requiring the California High Speed Rail Authority to analyze alternative alignments for the San Francisco - San Jose corridor. This language would put at risk the ability of California to receive over a billion dollars would of stimulus funding for joint High Speed Rail and Caltrain projects between San Francisco and San Jose.

Sincerely,

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