



**Atherton Civic Interest League
150 Watkins Ave
Atherton, CA 94027**

March 31, 2009

Mr. Dan Leavitt, Deputy Director
California High-Speed Rail Authority
925 L Street, Suite 1425
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Increase Benefits and Minimize Adverse Impacts - EIR Comments

The ACIL believes that there continues to be issues such as train routing and mitigations of adverse impacts that need to be identified and resolved by the Authority and Lead Agency in the planning phase of the High Speed Rail project.

The ACIL encourages transparent decision making and multi-departmental collaboration in defining the ultimate route and project details, including costs and mitigations. To help protect all of California's impacted Towns, we ask that tunneling or trenching of the rail line be considered to lessen the permanent adverse impacts of aesthetics, noise, and land use planning on California's residents and towns.

The ACIL welcomes the opportunity to assist the Authority in exploring ways in which the High Speed Rail project design can be improved to maximize the benefits and minimize the adverse impacts on local communities through which the route will pass.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

John Davey
President
Atherton Civic Interest League
JohnDavey@sbcglobal.net
650 325 9023 or 415 999 0303 cell

CC: Jerry Carlson, Mayor Atherton

ATHERTON CIVIC INTEREST LEAGUE

Founded in 1950, the ACIL strives to improve the quality of life in Atherton, to assure effective Town governance and advance the civic interests of Atherton residents. The ACIL achieves these goals by utilizing capable resident volunteers to identify unmet Town needs and establish projects to serve them. For additional information please visit <http://athertoncivicinterestleague.org>.