



O A K G R O V E  
E N T E R P R I S E S

March 4, 2009

Senator Darrell Steinberg  
Senate President Pro Tem  
California State Capital, Room 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: HIGH SPEED RAIL – Inadequate EIR & Lack of Transparent Planning**

Dear Senator Steinberg:

I am a life long Californian, 26 year member of the Sierra Club, Vice Chair of Atherton's General Plan, managed Hewlett-Packard's National Commute Transportation programs and campaigned for transportation bond measures. I have worked professionally and personally to support mass transportation however:

**The High Speed Rail plan is not well planned and violates our environmental regulations**

CEQA requires that a project be well defined and that an EIR identifies areas of significant impact and recommends mitigations. In short the EIR does not adequately address cumulative impact or mandatory items.

**The High Speed Rail plan will have SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE IMPACTS on:**

- ◆ Aesthetics ◆ Prime Agricultural Resources ◆ Biologic Resources
- ◆ Noise ◆ Land Use Planning ◆ Population and Housing
- ◆ Transportation ◆ Utilities and Services

Significant adverse impacts require mitigations; however the current High Speed Rail plan has inadequate or no mitigations as required by law. This project is enormous in scale and yet the transparent decision making and adherence to CEQA as required of developers is not being required of High Speed Rail. Taxpayers were sold a dream marketing plan not a development plan.

**Public Input and Transparent Decision making has been inadequate**

Please save the taxpayers and State of California the embarrassment of this financial and environmental boondoggle. Require High Speed Rail to develop a well thought out plan that avoids unnecessarily bisecting our highly dense communities and provides adequate mitigations and public input.

Regards,

Carol Smith  
Chief Operating Officer

CC: Jerry Carlson, Mayor Atherton