

# Merced County Farm Bureau

April 6, 2010

Ms. Carrie Bowen  
Regional Director  
California High-Speed Rail Authority  
925 L Street, Suite 1425  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Merced County Farm Bureau's opposition to route A1.

Dear Ms. Bowen:

Merced County Farm Bureau (MCFB) would like to officially submit our letter of opposition to the California High-Speed Rail's (HSR) with regards to route A1. This route will destroy a large number of Merced County's prime agricultural land as well as devastate established packing facilities. We would also like to reiterate our support for proposed route A2 as expressed in our February 16, 2010 letter.

Merced County has the sixth largest agriculture production economy in the country, contributing almost \$12 billion dollars to economic growth in 2008. As a leading food and fiber producer it is unfathomable that the HSR would not take into serious consideration the economic impact of their actions. With California's population projected to dramatically increase over the next 40 years, we as state leaders need to consider the long-term ramifications before we begin to eliminate food resources and infrastructure.

According to the HSR Bond language the routes were to be created in a manner to minimize "urban sprawl and impacts on the natural environment." However, route A1 will have the complete opposite effect, disturbing the entire farm to fork process.

We appreciate your willingness to work with us in on our current concerns, but HSR only has one chance to make the right decision that will affect the agrarian lifestyle for generations. We at MCFB ask for the immediate elimination of route A1. I have attached a previous letter from MCFB stating our support of A2 and our opposition to routes A3 and A4.

Sincerely,

Jeff Marchini  
President, Merced County Farm Bureau