

REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: June 2, 2015

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso *Sharon Tso*
Chief Legislative Analyst Council File No.: 15-0002-S59
Assignment No.: 15-06-0439

SUBJECT: California High Speed Rail Alignment

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution (Fuentes-Martinez) to include in the City's 2015-16 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for advanced environmental studies on key issues relative to the proposed California High Speed Rail alignment in the San Fernando Valley.

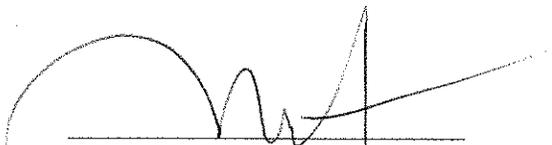
SUMMARY

The California High Speed Rail Authority (Authority) has published several new alternatives for the Palmdale to Burbank segment of the project. These include routes on the Highway 14 corridor and various proposals to tunnel under the San Gabriel Mountains. At recent community meetings, concerns have been raised about the project's impact on the surrounding communities. The Authority's June 9, 2015 meeting in Los Angeles will include an informational presentation on the Supplemental Alternatives Analysis for the Palmdale to Burbank Project Section and an update on progress in the corridor.

On May 29, 2015, the attached Resolution (Fuentes-Martinez) was introduced to request the Authority to conduct additional environmental studies as they consider project alignment through the northern portion of the San Fernando Valley. Prior to the development of a future Environmental Impact Report, the Resolution states that it would be extremely beneficial to conduct environmental analysis concurrent with the current Supplemental Alternatives Analysis (SAA) to study noise, groundwater quality, seismic and tunneling impacts.

BACKGROUND

The high speed rail project in California was approved by voters in 2008 with a \$9-billion bond to connect Los Angeles to San Francisco. The Authority is responsible for planning, designing, building and operating the system, which is planned to begin operation in 2029 from San Francisco to the Los Angeles. The system will eventually extend to Sacramento and San Diego, totaling 800 miles with up to 24 stations. The Authority is working with regional partners to implement the system.



Maria Souza-Rountree
Analyst

Attachments:
1. Resolution

SMT:msr

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) is responsible for the planning, designing, building and operation of a proposed high-speed rail system in California; and

WHEREAS, the CHSRA is considering alignments through the northern portion of the San Fernando Valley, including several new tunnel options; and

WHEREAS, many constituents who live in this area of the City have raised concerns regarding the project's impacts on the equine nature and rural lifestyle in the surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, prior to the development of a future Environmental Impact Report, it would be extremely beneficial to conduct environmental analyses concurrent with the current Supplemental Alternatives Analysis (SAA) to study noise, groundwater quality, seismic and tunneling impacts to determine a project alternative that would minimize impacts and maximize benefits in the San Fernando Valley;

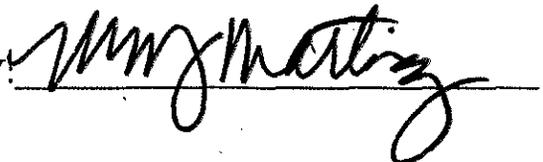
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2015-16 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for advanced environmental studies on key issues, including but not limited to, water quality, noise, seismic, and tunneling impacts, relative to the proposed California High Speed Rail alignment in the San Fernando Valley.

PRESENTED BY:



Felipe Fuentes
Councilmember, 7th District

SECONDED BY:



mst

MAY 29 2015