

FAX Transmittal 916-322-0827

February 24, 2010

Dominic Spaethling, Regional Manager  
California High Speed Rail Authority  
925 L Street, Suite 1425  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Request for Ninety Day Comment Period for San Francisco/San Jose HST Project Alternatives Analysis**

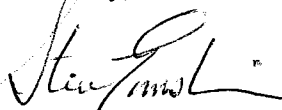
Dear Mr. Spaethling:

The City wishes to thank you and your project team for meeting with the City Council High Speed Rail Subcommittee and community members on February 9, 2010 regarding the pending release of the Alternatives Analysis for the San Francisco to San Jose Project EIR/EIS on March 4, 2010. The Subcommittee looks forward to the opportunity to provide input to the California High Speed Rail Authority on the Alternatives Analysis.

The Subcommittee finds, however, that the limited 45 day comment period is highly constraining for review and evaluation of such a major report. By unanimous action on February 16, the Subcommittee voted to request that HSRA extend the comment period by approximately forty-five (45) days, for a total 90 day comment period. The extended period is necessary to 1) fully understand the complexities of the alternatives that are identified, and 2) better inform the Palo Alto community about the content and findings of the Alternatives Analysis, including holding 2 community meetings after the March 15 presentation by HSRA staff to the City Council. The City believes this outreach will best serve the community of Palo Alto and the HSRA by providing more cohesive and thoughtful comments on the Alternatives Analysis and its implications for Palo Alto.

Thank you for considering this request, and please let us know as soon as possible whether the deadline will be extended. If you or others have questions, please feel free to contact me or City Manager James Keene.

Sincerely,



STEVE EMSLIE  
Deputy City Manager

cc: City Council  
Mehdi Morshed, HSRA  
Robert Doty, Peninsula Rail Project  
James Keene, City Manager

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