

*Consulat Général de France  
à San Francisco*

September 29, 2010

*Le Consul Général*

**VIA EXPRESS MAIL**

Mr. Roelof van Ark  
Chief Executive Officer  
California High Speed Rail Authority  
925 L Street Suite 1425  
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: Peer Review of O&M concepts and procedures**

Dear Mr. van Ark,

I acknowledge receipt of your September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 letter requesting that the French Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Land Planning conduct a "Peer Review" of your *Operations and Maintenance concepts and procedures* according to the Cooperation Agreement signed between the California High Speed Rail Authority and the aforementioned French Ministry.


This embassy is very supportive of the notion of drawing on the extensive experience of France with the planning and operation of HSR and welcomes this initiative.

On behalf of this French Ministry, I am pleased to inform you that it stands ready to participate in this Peer Review effort with its in-house rail expertise, including that of SETRA (*Service d'Études sur les Transports, les Routes et leurs Aménagements*).

Beyond this fruitful approach, the Ministry stresses the decisive advantages that could be drawn from an early partnership with the company that will operate and maintain the project.

We look forward to taking part in the Peer Review process, and helping California move this great project forward.

Yours faithfully,



Romain Serman,  
Consul Général de France  
A San Francisco