



July 8, 2015

Mr. Tony Boren
Executive Director
Fresno Council of Governments
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, CA 93721

Re: Formal Request for a Measure C Amendment to Allow for Allocating \$750,000 from the Rail Consolidation Program to Purchase Land Options on the “Fresno Works”- High Speed Rail Heavy Maintenance Facility Site.

Mr. Boren:

In early 2010, Fresno Works – an unprecedented coalition of officials from public and private agencies throughout the Fresno County region – issued its first official expression of interest to the California High Speed Rail Authority (Authority) regarding location of the Heavy Maintenance Facility (HMF) within Fresno County. Since that time, the group has worked diligently to ensure that the region is ideally situated to attract the development of this nationally significant infrastructure. Between 2010 and the current day, the Fresno Works Group has been the only consistent proposer that has remained committed to placing the HMF within our region. Recently, however, another region has re-emerged with a package that is having them recognized as a serious contender to obtain the site. Paramount to their strength is the singular parcel and ownership associated with the land proposed for the site, making development significantly easier for the Authority. Currently, the site identified by Fresno Works consists of seventeen independently owned parcels adding to the complexity, cost and timing of overall development.

Included in the body of the 2010 Fresno Works proposal were details of a \$25 million incentive package, provided through Measure C, earmarked for assisting in the placement of the HMF in the region. Originally, it was envisioned that these funds would be provided to the Authority in a flexible manner, providing the agency with the ability to utilize the funds in ways that allowed for maximum development productivity. The Amendment was structured so that funds cannot to be allocated until Fresno County is awarded the HSR HMF site. However, due to increased activity by other competitors along the alignment in pursuing the HSR HMF, the group now unanimously feels that site acquisition, thereby creating singular control of the entire site before awarding, is critical to maintaining Fresno County’s competitive edge which will be necessary in order to be selected by the Authority.



With this in mind, in order to enhance and expedite our HMF proposal, a local developer has stated that he is willing to undertake the effort to purchase the identified HMF parcels using his own financial resources to purchase options on the land, provided that private funding he spends to purchase options not to exceed \$750,000 would be “reimbursed” by Measure “C” funding in the event that Fresno County is not awarded the HMF by the California High Speed Rail Authority.

The desired goal of this request is to ensure that the Fresno region remains the most attractive and logical choice for the placement of the HMF by the Authority. As such, “Fresno Works” is officially requesting that the Fresno Council of Governments Policy Board initiate a Measure “C” Amendment to authorize \$750,000 from the Rail Consolidation Program, to be made available for reimbursement on options purchased for the Fresno Works High Speed Rail Heavy Maintenance Facility site. The funding would be subtracted from the \$25 million that has been previously set aside by Measure “C” Amendment #1, approved by the Fresno COG Policy Board and Fresno County Transportation Authority Board in 2010. Amendment #1 established a new Measure “C” High Speed Rail Facilities Program. Funding available from this program is to be used to provide capital for a variety of uses associated with development of the High-Speed Rail Heavy Maintenance Facility.

We thank you in advance for your consideration, and look forward to continually working together for the betterment of our great region.

Sincerely,



Henry Perea
Fresno County Supervisor



Ashley Swearingen
Mayor, City of Fresno



Lee Ann Eager
President/CEO Fresno County EDC



Amarpreet “Ruby” Dhaliwal
Mayor, City of San Joaquin