



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, SACRAMENTO
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1325 J STREET
SACRAMENTO CA 95814-2922



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

February 2, 2011

Regulatory Division (SPK-2009-01483)

Dan Leavitt
California High Speed Rail Authority
925 L Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

I am writing in response to your December 22, 2010, request for agreement on the Purpose and Need statement for the proposed Merced to Fresno segment of the California High-Speed Train ("CHST") Project. As per our *National Environmental Policy Act/Clean Water Act Section 404/Rivers and Harbors Act Section 14 (33 U.S.C. 408) Integration Process for the California High-Speed Train Program Memorandum of Understanding* (dated December 2010; NEPA/404/408 MOU) one goal is to reach mutual agreement on the purpose statement so that it can be used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' ("Corps") as the overall project purpose statement for compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (40 C.F.R. Part 230).

As a cooperating agency for preparation of the Merced to Fresno Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) and in fulfillment of our responsibilities under the NEPA/404/408 MOU, the Corps offered its feedback to the Federal Railroad Administration as well as the California High-Speed Rail Authority ("Authority") on the draft Purpose and Need statement during our December 8, 2010 meeting. Our substantive comments have been satisfactorily incorporated and/or addressed in the revised Purpose and Need document entitled "Checkpoint A: Merced to Fresno Section dated December 22, 2010. In accordance with Checkpoint A of the NEPA/404/408 MOU we agree the project purpose is:

"To implement the Merced to Fresno section of the California HST system to provide the public with electric-powered high-speed rail service that provides predictable and consistent travel times between major urban centers and connectivity to airports, mass transit, and the highway network in the south San Joaquin Valley, and connect the Northern and Southern portions of the system."

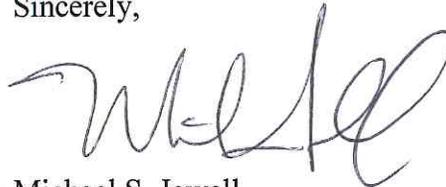
Furthermore, the Corps agrees the purpose statement meets the needs of the project and will provide for the development of a reasonable range of alternatives to be evaluated in the Draft EIR/EIS, which will serve to fulfill the procedural and substantive requirements of the NEPA and the 404(b)(1) Guidelines, respectively.

In an effort to expedite our Checkpoint A concurrence, we have refrained from reviewing and commenting on the remaining sections within the Checkpoint A documents. We believe our review of the Administrative Draft EIR/EIS should be sufficient to cover the information included in these documents.

We appreciate your feedback. At your earliest convenience, please tell us how we are doing by completing the customer survey on our website under *Customer Service Survey*.

Please refer to identification number SPK-2009-01483 in any correspondence concerning this project. If you have any questions, please contact Zachary Simmons at our California South Branch, 1325 J Street, Room 1480, Sacramento, California 95814-2922, email Zachary.M.Simmons@usace.army.mil, or telephone 916-557-6746. For more information regarding our program, please visit our website at www.spk.usace.army.mil/regulatory.html.

Sincerely,



Michael S. Jewell
Chief, Regulatory Division

Copy furnished

Mr. David Valenstein, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE- Mail Stop 20, Washington, D.C. 20590-0001

Ms. Susan Sturges and Ms. Jennifer Blonn, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, California 94105

Mr. Bryan Porter, Parsons Brinckerhoff, 925 L Street, Suite 1425, Sacramento, California 95814-3704