

Comment by School Board Member John Lee Evans

November 15, 2009

California High Speed Rail Authority,

I am very concerned that there is a proposal to study a potential high speed rail route through Rose Canyon in San Diego. Rose Canyon Open Space Park is an integral part of the University City community. It is immediately adjacent to University City High School. Furthermore, we have three elementary schools and a large middle school within walking distance of the park. We have student groups that visit the park in the neighborhood for real-life environmental studies. Nearly 5,000 students attend school in this area.

As our University City representative to our San Diego Unified School Board, I strongly oppose routing high speed trains either through or near the Rose Canyon Park. This type of open space city park is a rare find in an urban area. Hands-on environmental education has been proven to be a successful science teaching method. We must not break the connection between our schools and Rose Canyon Open Space Park of the City of San Diego. The passage of high speed trains, along with the construction of high fences and retaining walls, would destroy the benefits of this special urban park.

I strongly encourage the developers of the high speed rail to consider another route near a freeway or any other route that does not damage a city park. We can only teach our students to protect our natural environment if we are doing that ourselves.

John Lee Evans

San Diego Unified School District Trustee, District A