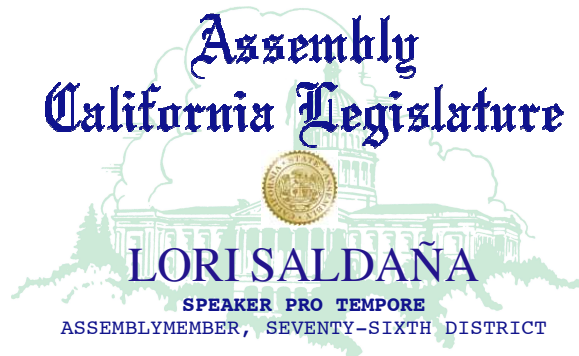


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CHAIR, LEGISLATIVE WOMEN'S  
CAUCUS

November 19, 2009

Mr. Dan Leavitt, Deputy Director  
California High-Speed Rail Authority  
925 L Street, Suite 1425  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

I would like to take this opportunity to strongly encourage the California High-Speed Rail Authority (HSRA) to make some additional considerations regarding High-Speed Rail (HSR) services in San Diego County.

While I support the concept and goals of HSR services in San Diego County, I respectfully request that the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) consider any negative impacts the alignments would have on canyons and creeks with substantial natural open space. These include impacts on water quality, wetland ecosystems, habitat for wildlife, the Multiple Species Conservation Program, designated parks, non-motorized transportation corridors, and recreational and educational opportunities in nature for urban residents.

I would also like to request that the HSRA conduct a full project-level analysis of the I-15 route to Qualcomm Stadium including under grounding the remainder of the line to the terminus as a preferred alternative in their project level EIR/EIS in addition to other potential alternatives. In the Program EIR, this route was found to have higher projected intercity ridership, less cost, less noise impact, fewer visual and aesthetic impacts, and to be shorter and faster, with higher train speeds.

I strongly encourage the HSRA to look at a station in the City of San Diego that is centrally located and accessible via multiple transportation options in an area with good ingress and egress. I remain open to alignments that avoid negative impacts to our precious remaining open space resources and that meet the transportation needs of San Diego County visitors and residents.

Thank you for your consideration in this very important matter. Please feel free to contact me or my staff at (619) 645-3090.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Saldaña". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lori Saldaña  
Speaker pro Tempore  
California State Assembly, 76<sup>th</sup> District

LS:sv:ka