

RESOLUTION NO. 2012 - 2836

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WASCO
OPPOSING THE HIGH SPEED RAIL PROJECT, AS CURRENTLY PROPOSED**

R E C I T A L S

WHEREAS, with the passage of Proposition 1A in November 2008, California voters approved \$9.95 billion in bond funding for high speed rail in California; and

WHEREAS, the California High Speed Rail Authority (Authority) is proposing to utilize said bonds to fund a high speed electrified train service for travel between major metropolitan areas of California; and

WHEREAS, federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) money has also been allocated to the California high speed rail project; and

WHEREAS, the cost estimate for the project has grown 2.5 times the amount stated on the November 4, 2008 state ballot; and

WHEREAS, the State of California continues to experience recurrent deficits with no long-term solution to balance the budget; and

WHEREAS, a significant, yet to be determined additional amount of debt would be incurred by the State as a result of the Authority's proposed High Speed Rail project; and

WHEREAS, the current secured funding provides for a track from Borden to a southerly point not yet clarified by the Authority; and

WHEREAS, there is no train; and

WHEREAS, there is no electrification to the track; and

WHEREAS, the first segment of track has no independent utility; and

WHEREAS, the Authority's business plan contains no less than six significant issues for legislative consideration as identified by the non-partisan Legislative Analyst's Office; and

WHEREAS, the proposed alignments through the City of Wasco contain comparable negative impacts to the community; and

WHEREAS, the proposed alignments will damage significant amounts of local residences, businesses, historical structures, culturally significant structures, open spaces and other basic critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the proposed alignments could ultimately damage millions of dollars in City

assets, with no significant mitigation; and

WHEREAS, the station proposed by the Authority is over five times the size of the station that was first envisioned in a previous study; and

WHEREAS, the Authority circulated a draft EIR for public comment, and the document did not address the requirements of State law under CEQA; and

WHEREAS, the draft EIR document does not adequately address mitigation in all applicable areas; and

WHEREAS, the Authority provided insufficient review time for the draft EIR document; and

WHEREAS, the original draft EIR implies substantial negative impacts to Downtown Wasco, but does not provide detail or mitigation for said impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Authority provided only one complete draft EIR document for public review in the entire 8,100 square mile County of Kern; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wasco has submitted comments to the Authority regarding deficiencies in the draft EIR and the Authority provided no response to those comments; and

WHEREAS, City staff relayed concerns with the Authority in person, via e-mail and in phone conversations in recent years, but said concerns were not adequately addressed; and

WHEREAS, numerous citizens of Wasco and Kern County have addressed the City Council and other local legislative bodies and elected officials with numerous and varied significant concerns regarding the Authority's proposal, including lack of public notice and input; and

WHEREAS, state and federal legislators have called for an audit of High Speed Rail Project funds; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wasco will continue to work with local farm interests to ensure that High Speed Rail does not impact or adversely affect farmland in and around Wasco; and

WHEREAS, the State of California should not be borrowing money through the sale of bonds until it can balance its budget without raiding the treasuries of cities and counties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Wasco as follows:

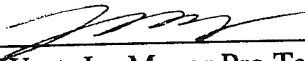
1. The above recitals are true and correct.
2. The City Council hereby confirms its complete opposition to the Authority's entire High Speed Rail project as it is currently proposed.
3. That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the following:
 - a. Honorable President of the United States, Barak Obama;

- b. Honorable Secretary of Transportation, Ray LaHood;
 - c. Honorable Congressman, 22nd District, Kevin McCarthy;
 - d. Honorable Congressman, 20th District, Jim Costa;
 - e. Honorable Governor of California, Jerry Brown;
 - f. California Secretary of State, Debra Bowen;
 - g. California State Treasurer Bill Lockyer;
 - h. California State Director of Finance Ana Matosantos;
 - i. California State Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing Agency Traci Stevens (Acting)
 - j. Honorable California State Senator, 16th District, Michael Rubio;
 - k. Honorable California State Senator, 18th District, Jean Fuller;
 - l. Honorable California State Assemblymember, 30th District, David Valadao;
 - m. Honorable California State Assemblymember, 32nd District, Shannon Grove;
 - n. State Controller, John Chiang;
 - o. State Director for the Office of United States Senator Barbara Boxer, Tom Bohigian;
 - p. CEO, California High Speed Rail Authority, Roelof van Ark;
 - q. Board Members, California High Speed Rail Authority:
 - 1) Chairperson, Thomas J. Umberg;
 - 2) Vice Chairperson, Lynn Schenk;
 - 3) Vice Chairperson, Thomas Richards;
 - 4) Russ Burns;
 - 5) Matthew Toledo;
 - 6) Robert Balgenorth;
 - 7) Jim Hartnett;
 - 8) Dan Richard; and
 - 9) Michael Rossi
 - r. Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, John L. Mica; and
 - s. Republican and Democratic Members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.
4. That the City Council requests the State Legislators, Congressional Delegation, and other officials being noticed with this Resolution take appropriate actions to oppose the Authority's entire High Speed Rail project as it is currently proposed.

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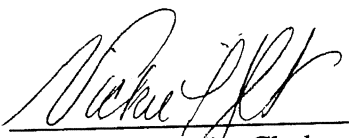
I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Wasco at a regular meeting thereof held on January 17, 2012, by the following vote:

AYES: West, Cortez, Hively
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Espitia, Wegman-Craig



Fred West, Jr., Mayor Pro Tem
City of Wasco

APPROVED January 17, 2012



Vickie Hight, City Clerk
City of Wasco