



PO Box 1785
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

May 11, 2011

State Senator Joe Simitian
160 Town & Country Village
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Dear Senator Simitian,

The South Valley Environmental Collaborative (SVEC) would like to thank you, Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, and Assemblyman Rich Gordon for your constructive Statement on High Speed Rail released April 18, 2011. Your view that “a blended system that integrates high-speed rail with a 21st Century CalTrain” resonates well with our group.

The SVEC is comprised of several environmental organizations and citizens' groups from Santa Clara County that have mutual interests regarding environmental and land use issues affecting the vicinity of south Santa Clara County and the Pajaro Watershed. As such, the Collaborative has been deeply concerned about the effects proposed alignments would have on the wildlife corridor in the Coyote Valley and the prime farmlands located east of Highway 101 through the southern area of Santa Clara County. We hope that our state, federal and local representatives share your view that a blended system is a very feasible and sound alternative to what is currently being proposed for our area as well.

Knowing the amount of time and energy you and your colleagues have given to supporting this project, the SVEC appreciates your commitment to seek the best possible outcome for your constituents. We encourage our federal, state and local representatives to do the same. In light of the report just released by the State Legislative Analyst's Office, we can only hope the California High Speed Rail Authority heeds your words and proves it is not “too late for a successful course correction”.

Sincerely,

Michael Sanchez
SVEC Organizational Coordinator



Cc Congresswoman Anna Eshoo
Assemblymember Rich Gordon
Congressman Jerry McNerney
Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren
Congressman Mike Honda
State Senator Elaine Alquist

State Senator Sam Blakeslee
Assemblymember William Monning
Assemblymember Luis Alejo
Supervisor Mike Wasserman
Mayor Al Pinheiro
Mayor Steve Tate