

RESOLUTION NO. _____
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE CALIFORNIA HIGH SPEED RAIL
AUTHORITY AS THEY BEGIN THEIR STATEWIDE PUBLIC HEARING PROCESS
TO FINALIZE THE EIR/EIS PROCESS

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2004, in San Francisco, California the California High Speed Rail Authority (Authority) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) unveiled the Draft EIR/EIS proposing a high-speed train system for intercity travel in California as the preferred alternative to meet California's travel demands; and

WHEREAS, the study shows a proposed 700-mile high-speed train system could carry up to 68 million passengers by 2020 linking major metropolitan centers of San Francisco and Sacramento in the north, through San Mateo County and the Central Valley, to Los Angeles and San Diego in the south; and

WHEREAS, California's burgeoning population will reach 50 million by 2030, 11 million new residents in the next 15 years, and existing transportation systems can't meet demand. Expansion of existing infrastructure requiring 3000 new miles of highway lanes and nearly 60 new gates and five new runways would still be insufficient for future travel projections and demands; and

WHEREAS, Since 1998, the Authority has thoroughly studied, analyzed, reviewed and evaluated dozens of potential routes and corridors throughout California on the basis of capital, operating and maintenance costs, travel time; and engineering, operational and environmental constraints. Corridors were evaluated on regional basis before selecting the alternatives for further study for servicing the Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, the development of intercity high-speed trains will increase efficiency and fully integrate and coordinate with other modes of local transit connecting with existing airports and transit terminals, easing growing demand on congested highways and airports providing passengers with a new, safe choice for travel; and

WHEREAS, high-speed rail offers significant environmental benefits such as reducing energy use and dependence on petroleum, less land use and access than needed for highway and airport expansion, reducing air pollutant emissions therefore improving air quality, and lessened impacts on sensitive habitats helping to protect California's environment for future generations; and

WHEREAS, building a high-speed rail system will strengthen California's economy by creating 450,000 new jobs, with many coming from San Mateo County. Construction of permanent and multi-modal train stations will create economic engines for local economies and is two to three times cheaper than expanding highways and airports; and