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July 27, 2011



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AVTA Adopts Resolution Supporting High-Speed Rail in the Antelope Valley

Lancaster, CA – The Antelope Valley Transit Authority Board of Directors unanimously adopted a resolution supporting alignment of California’s future high-speed rail system through the Antelope Valley at its meeting on Tuesday, July 26. The resolution comes in response to growing consideration of an alternative route along Interstate 5 to Bakersfield that would bypass the Antelope Valley. The proposed high-speed rail system will ultimately connect San Diego to San Francisco and Sacramento while traveling at speeds of up to 220 mph.

While the high-speed rail system was originally planned to travel through the Lancaster/Palmdale area, the California High-Speed Rail Authority continues to study the alternative alignment along Interstate 5. AVTA and local leaders, including Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, strongly believe that the route going through Palmdale would not only benefit the Antelope Valley but would best serve the long-term interests of the high-speed rail system. The Antelope Valley has a substantial, and still growing, population that could provide additional ridership for the rail system. Future developments in the region, including the DesertXpress High Speed Rail to Las Vegas and an “inland port,” would make the Antelope Valley a logical connection point for passengers and freight. In addition, previous studies of the proposed high-speed rail system have also identified the Antelope Valley alignment as the most practical route between Los Angeles and Bakersfield.

The California High-Speed Rail Authority is expected to hold a vote on whether or not to continue with environmental studies of the Interstate 5 alignment at its monthly meeting on August 25. Local leaders have requested that the meeting be held in Lancaster or Palmdale to allow local stakeholders and members of the public to voice their support for the Antelope Valley alignment.

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