

**NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL ♦ LATINO URBAN FORUM
FRIENDS OF THE LOS ANGELES RIVER
NORTHEAST LOS ANGELES OPEN SPACE COALITION
CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY MEMBER, 45TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
SOLANO CANYON COMMUNITY RESIDENT
CORNFIELDS STATE PARK ADVISORY ♦ THE RIVER PROJECT
HIGHLAND PARK HERITAGE TRUST ♦ RECONNECTING AMERICA
UCLA INSTITUTE OF THE ENVIRONMENT ♦ LIVABLE PLACES
HEAL THE BAY ♦ LOS ANGELES WALKS
CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS FOUNDATION
ARTHUR GOLDING AND ASSOCIATES
CORNFIELD STATE PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER
EL SERENO COMMUNITY RESIDENT
LOS ANGELES FORUM FOR ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN DESIGN
FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE GLASSELL PARK IMPROVEMENT
ASSOCIATION ♦ HIGHLAND PARK HERITAGE TRUST
COALITION FOR A STATE PARK AT TAYLOR YARD
SILVER LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL ♦ OLIVE BRANCHES
URBAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY INSTITUTE, OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE
ARTSCORPSLA/ACLA, ART..COMMUNITY..LAND..ACTIVISM
CALIFORNIA TRUST FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS
LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY ♦ FRIENDS OF ATWATER VILLAGE ♦**

VIA FEDEX/EMAIL/U.S.MAIL

July 14, 2005

Chairperson Joseph E. Petrillo and
Members of the Board
California High-Speed Rail Authority
925 L Street, Suite 1425
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: High-Speed Rail Alignment along Taylor Yard, Cornfield Site and LA River

Dear Chairperson Petrillo and Board Members:

On behalf of the undersigned community residents, stakeholders, and public interest organizations, we are writing to express our deep concern regarding the potential designation of a *preferred alignment* for high-speed rail that would severely and unnecessarily impact the Los Angeles River Master Plan, Taylor Yard State Park, and

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recreational areas near the Cornfield State Park. Recently, on June 25th, Assembly Member Jackie Goldberg hosted a community workshop wherein Mehdi Morshed, the Executive Director of the California High-Speed Rail Authority ("HSRA"), presented information on the currently proposed *preferred alignment* for the high-speed rail, and this letter is submitted to register our strong objections to that proposed *preferred alignment*.

For over a decade, residents and interested stakeholders of Los Angeles – and the northeast community in particular – have worked to create a series of recreational areas, parks, and trails along the Los Angeles River corridor in one of the nation's most park-deprived urban regions. The *preferred alignment* through Los Angeles threatens to undo that effort, undermine the State of California's investment in the planned Taylor Yard and Cornfield areas, and adversely impact ongoing Los Angeles River revitalization efforts.

Accordingly, we urge HSRA to defer selection of a *preferred alignment* between Burbank and Union Station. Instead, this area should be formally designated as a corridor for further study, analogous to the recommendation for the Northern Mountain Crossing between San Jose and Merced, for consideration of other feasible route options within the Burbank/Union Station corridor. Such an approach would afford community and interested stakeholders a greater opportunity to assess and comment on the potential impacts to the still evolving Taylor Yard State Park and recreational areas near the Cornfield State Park. Deferral of route selection would also enable HSRA to understand and address potential impacts on the Los Angeles River, which have thus far received too little attention despite ongoing revitalization efforts by numerous stakeholders, including the Ad Hoc River Committee of the Los Angeles City Council.

It would be imprudent to delineate a *preferred alignment* in such a way as to thwart community enjoyment of Taylor Yard or the Cornfield areas, the future conversion of other riparian areas into parkland, and the larger visions of the Los Angeles River revitalization. We believe this is particularly the case in light of potentially less harmful alternatives including, among others, those that further utilize the existing Interstate 5 freeway alignment. We believe, therefore, that a "corridor for further study" designation is a far preferable course in order to ensure responsible alignment selection, and we urge you to adopt it.

Very truly yours,

Timothy Grabel, Natural Resources Defense Council
James Rojas, Latino Urban Forum
Lewis McAdams, Friends of the Los Angeles River
Elva Yañez, Northeast Los Angeles Open Space Coalition
Jackie Goldberg, California Assemblymember, 45th Assembly District
Alicia Brown, Solano Canyon Community Resident

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Leonard Pitt, Cornfields State Park Advisory
Melanie Winter, The River Project
Charles Fisher, Highland Park Heritage Trust
Gloria Ohland, Reconnecting America
Mary Nichols, UCLA Institute of the Environment
Ryan Lehman, Livable Places
Leslie Mintz, Heal the Bay
Deborah Murphy, Los Angeles Walks
Sara Feldman, California State Parks Foundation
Arthur Golding, Arthur Golding and Associates
Nicole Possert, Cornfield State Park Advisory Committee Member
Anita Garcia, El Sereno Community Resident
Alan Loomis, Los Angeles Forum for Architecture and Urban Design
Tony Scudellari, Former President of the Glassell Park Improvement Association
Heather Mclarty, Highland Park Heritage Trust
David Brunk, Coalition for a State Park at Taylor Yard
Elizabeth Bougart-Sharkov, Silver Lake Neighborhood Council
Carolyn Ramsay, Olive Branches
Robert Gottlieb, Urban and Environmental Policy Institute, Occidental College
Tricia Ward, ARTScorpsLA/AcLA, Art..Community..Land..Activism
Marc Litchman, California Trust for Public Schools
Garry George, Los Angeles Audubon Society
Annette Carr, Friends of Atwater Village