September 19, 2019

Lenny Mendonca  
Board of Directors  
California High-Speed Rail Authority  
770 L Street, Suite 620  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairperson Mendonca,

It has been brought to my attention that the California High-Speed Rail Authority staff plans on moving forward with alternative 4 – a blended at-grade services which would operate within the existing Caltrain and Union Pacific rights-of-way. While it is commendable that this option is cost-saving and will result in less overall displacement of agricultural land, I am concerned about the at-grade impact proposal between Diridon Station to Tamien Station.

Although the targeted area resides beyond my supervisorial district, this proposal may adversely affect commuters from all over Santa Clara County along with the residents that reside along the proposed alignment. San Carlos Street and Willow Street are two commonly used roads that constituents who reside within my supervisorial district traverse across when driving locally. I am concerned that the at-grade alignment will result in increased travel times for drivers who utilize these local roads. Furthermore, this alternative may also impede the wildlife migrations that utilize the local trails.

As your agency considers the various alignment options, I respectfully request that the California High-Speed Rail Authority consider the alternative of studying and building an aerial alignment from Diridon Station to Tamien Station before transitioning into an at-grade alignment south of Tamien Station. This alignment option would allow commuters to continue traveling across our local highways with minimal traffic impacts while also having the additional benefit of minimizing the potential impacts to natural habitat and alleviating some of the local community concerns.

Please feel free to reach out to my office should you feel the need to contact me.

Respectfully,

Dave Cortese  
Board of Supervisors

Cc:  Tom Richards, Vice Chair of California High-Speed Rail Authority  
Brian P. Kelly, Chief Executive Officer of California High-Speed Rail Authority  
Boris Lipkin, Northern California Regional Director of California High-Speed Rail Authority