



County of Fresno

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SUPERVISOR HENRY PEREA – DISTRICT THREE

Fresno County to Reap Immense Benefits from Today's Historic High Speed Rail Authority Decision

December 2, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fresno, CA – Supervisors Perea and Anderson, along with a contingency of Fresno Works representatives, witnessed history in the making today as the California High Speed Rail Authority Board chose the location of its first segment of track to be built.

Fresno County will be at the heart of the nation's first track of high speed rail. Borden (just south of Madera) to Corcoran is the historic first segment of the high speed rail system that will ultimately span 800 miles and connect San Francisco to San Diego. The first segment was chosen based on Prop 1A and ARRA funding requirements and is not intended to be a passenger service, rather it is the beginning of an 800-mile system that will revolutionize transportation, create thousands of jobs and clean the air by taking people out of their cars and onto the passenger rail system.

“The Authority Board’s courageous decision today will create major economic stimulus for Fresno County,” Supervisor Perea said. “Not only will we will see thousands of jobs for Fresno County residents, but we’ll also see Fresno County position itself as the nation’s high speed rail development center.”

Conservatively, building the high-speed rail in California will create 600,000 full-time construction jobs. Building the entire Central Valley segment from Merced to Bakersfield will create 135,000 full-time construction jobs. These numbers do not include the 1,500 plus jobs Fresno County hopes to bring to the area through its bid for the Authority’s heavy maintenance facility.

“We are thrilled to be at the heart of a system that will change transportation in California as we know it. But we still have our eye on bringing even more jobs to the area through the Fresno Works effort to bring the Authority’s heavy maintenance facility to Fresno County.

For more information about the Fresno Works effort, visit FresnoWorks.org.

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