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August 12, 2010

Attn: Curt Pringle, Chairman
California High-Speed Rail Authority
925 L Street, Suite 1425
Sacramento, CA 95814

re: High-Speed Rail, Palmdale to Sylmar Segment

Chairman Pringle and Members of the Board:

Antelope Valley Conservancy is a public benefit corporation that preserves and stewards native habitats and watershed resources. We called to your consultants' attention wildlife needs in a section of the Palmdale-Sylmar Segment, along the railroad right-of-way alignment near Lake Palmdale, and they referred us to write to you.

Antelope Valley Conservancy has conservation easements on historic wetlands that attract and sustain a variety of native and migratory species in the subject area, and has already begun the process for a wildlife crossing to reduce Sierra Highway mortality and preserve wildlife movement. The potential High-Speed Rail alignment poses another variable in that design.

We request that you permit and request your consultants to engage in productive conversation with us, so that their designs and plans will accommodate, or collaborate in regard to, the planned wildlife crossing. Our Rift Zone Wetlands Project Manager is Wendy Reed, whose contact information is above.

If the High-Speed Rail Authority will work with Antelope Valley Conservancy for a solution in this small area, it will be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted,
by Resolution of the Board of Directors of
ANTELOPE VALLEY CONSERVANCY

by Jennifer Matos, Ph.D., Chairperson

cc: Daniel Tempelis, Hatch Mott MacDonald
Sara Costin, Consensus Inc.