

APPENDIX C: CORRESPONDENCE

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-7100
(916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053
calshpo@parks.ca.gov
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



March 13, 2012

Reply in Reference To: **FRA100524A**

Sarah M. Allred
CALIFORNIA High-Speed Rail Authority
770 L Street, Suite 800
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Section 106 Consultation for the Merced to Fresno Section High-Speed Train Project

Dear Ms. Allred:

Thank you for consulting pursuant to the, *Programmatic Agreement Among the Federal Railroad Administration, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the California State Historic Preservation Officer, and the California High-Speed Rail Authority regarding Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as it Pertains to the California High-Speed Train Project (PA)*.

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) has determined that 11 historic resources listed on Tables 6-2 and 6-3 of the HPSR are listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The Authority has also determined that 533 properties listed in Table 6-5 of the HPSR and Table 7-1 of the HASR are not eligible for the NRHP. Based on review of the submitted information I concur with the foregoing determinations.

Thank you for considering historic properties during project planning. If you have any questions, please contact Natalie Lindquist of my staff at (916) 445-7014 or email at nlindquist@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan K. Stratton for".

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
State Historic Preservation Officer

Heritage Preservation Commission
Chowchilla Civic Center
130 S. Second Street
Chowchilla, CA 93610

June 28, 2013

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Subject: Historic Architectural Resources, California High-Speed Rail Project,
Merced to Fresno Wyes Alternatives**

Dear Commission Members:

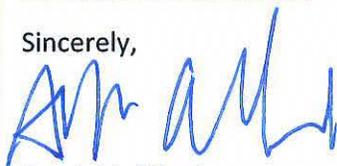
The California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) proposes to construct, operate, and maintain an electric-powered, steel-wheel-on-steel-rail high-speed train (HST) system, capable of operating at speeds of up to 220 miles per hour on dedicated, fully grade-separated tracks, with state-of-the-art safety, signaling, and automated train control systems. As part of this effort, the Authority, in cooperation with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), is preparing an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the Merced to Fresno wye alternatives of the HST System. This letter is being sent to you in compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR Part 800), regarding the identification of historic properties within this study area. (Please see enclosed map.)

On behalf of the Authority, consultants, including historians and architectural historians, are identifying and evaluating known and potentially historical resources in the Merced to Fresno wye project study area for eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR). Historical resources are those properties potentially eligible for, determined eligible for, or listed in the NRHP and/or the CRHR. Because of you and your member's knowledge of the region, and as part of the section 106 process, we are asking if you know of properties that should be included in our studies. If so, please respond in writing to me within the next thirty days.

Additionally, please let us know if you are interested in participating in ongoing consultation regarding the potential for the project to affect historic resources, should there be any in this study area. For additional project information, please visit the CHSRA website at:

<http://www.hsr.ca.gov/>

Sincerely,



Sarah M. Allred

CHSRA Senior Environmental Planner – Cultural Resources Specialist

Enclosure:

Figure 1 - Project Location Map – Merced to Fresno Wye Alternatives

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR



Milliken Museum Society of Los Banos
Attention: Charles Sawyer
905 E. Pacheco Blvd.
Los Banos, CA 93635

June 28, 2013

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**Subject: Historic Architectural Resources, California High-Speed Rail Project,
Merced to Fresno Wyes Alternatives**

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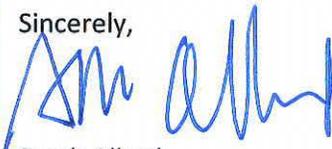
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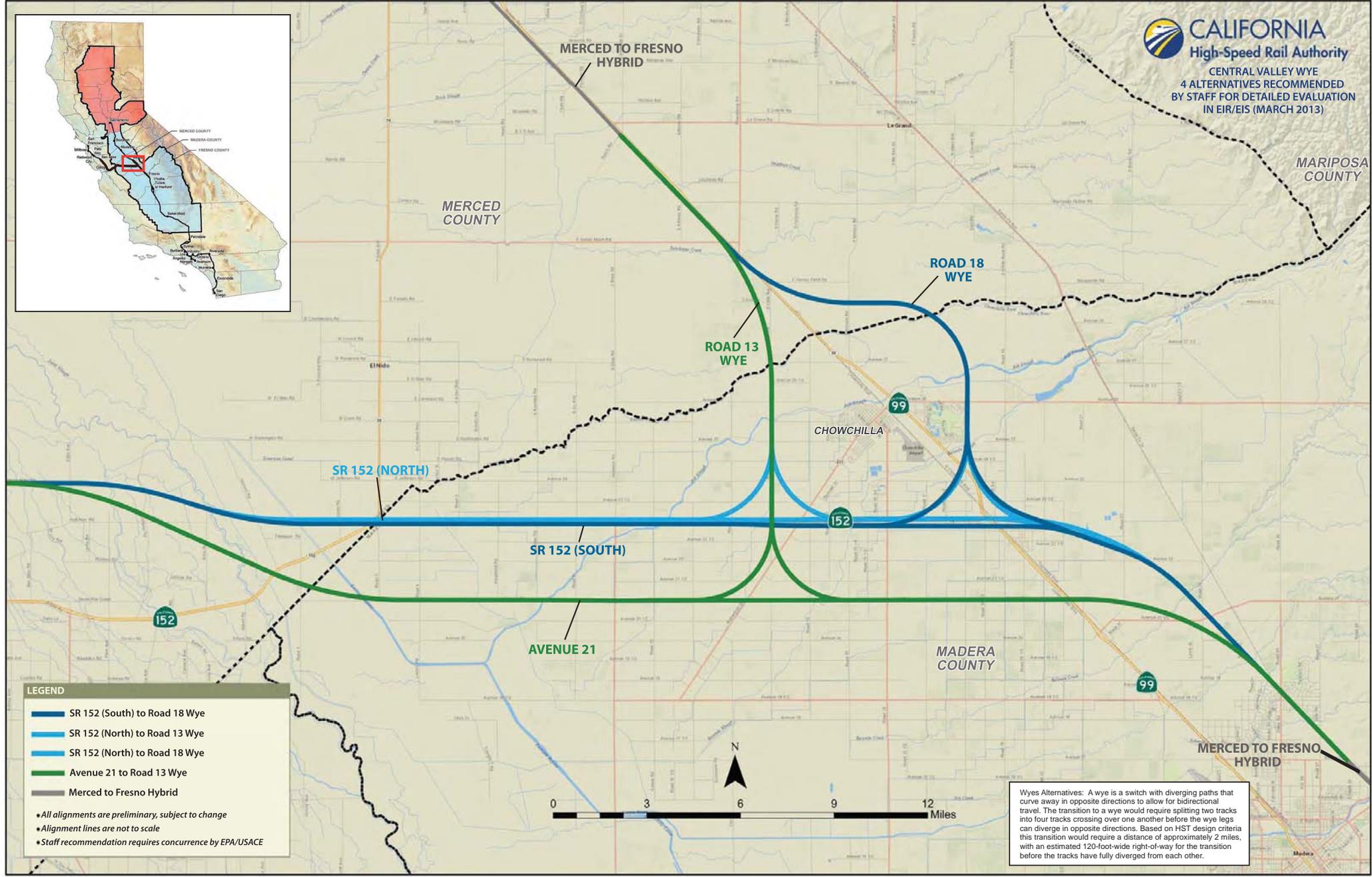
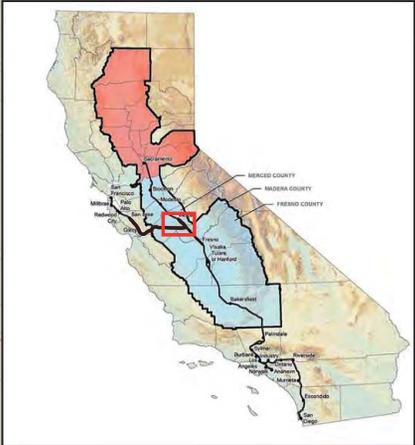
Sarah Allred
CHSRA Senior Environmental Planner – Cultural Resources Specialist

Enclosure:

Figure 1 - Project Location Map – Merced to Fresno Wye Alternatives

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
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LEGEND

- SR 152 (South) to Road 18 Wye
- SR 152 (North) to Road 13 Wye
- SR 152 (North) to Road 18 Wye
- Avenue 21 to Road 13 Wye
- Merced to Fresno Hybrid

- All alignments are preliminary, subject to change
- Alignment lines are not to scale
- Staff recommendation requires concurrence by EPA/USACE

Wyes Alternatives: A wye is a switch with diverging paths that curve away in opposite directions to allow for bidirectional travel. The transition to a wye would require splitting two tracks into four tracks crossing over one another before the wye legs can diverge in opposite directions. Based on HST design criteria this transition would require a distance of approximately 2 miles, with an estimated 120-foot-wide right-of-way for the transition before the tracks have fully diverged from each other.



May 26, 2015

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Chowchilla Heritage Preservation Commission
Chowchilla Civic Center
130 South Second Street
Chowchilla, CA 93610

Subject: **California High-Speed Rail Project, Central Valley Wye – Request for Input**

Dear Commission Members:

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority), in conjunction with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), is responsible for planning, designing, building, and operating the first high-speed rail project in the nation. As part of this effort, the Authority and the FRA are currently conducting environmental studies for three potential alignment alternatives that are under consideration for the Central Valley Wye portion of the high-speed rail system located in portions of Merced and Madera Counties. The Central Valley Wye will ultimately serve as the junction that connects the north-south rail line in the Central Valley with the east-west line to the Bay area (please see enclosed map).

The purpose of this letter is to solicit input from the Commission regarding the potential presence of historic properties within or near the alignment alternatives being analyzed for the Central Valley Wye. Due to the design constraints associated with constructing a high-speed rail system capable of speeds over 200 mph, the ability to avoid resources at later stages in the project development process is more difficult to achieve. As such, we are seeking early input from organizations such as yours in an effort to promote the early identification of important historic resources of concern to interested parties in the local community to help inform the alternative selection process and to more successfully achieve avoidance and/or minimize effects to such resources.

On behalf of the Authority and FRA, our regional consultants, including historians, architectural historians, and archaeologists, are currently conducting cultural resources investigations within the Central Valley Wye project area. To date, two historic properties have been identified within the study area: the Robertson Boulevard Tree Row and the Chowchilla Canal. The Robertson Boulevard Tree Row has been determined to be eligible for the both the National Register of Historic Properties (NRHP) and the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR). The Chowchilla Canal has been recommended as eligible for the NRHP and CRHR; however, this recommendation is currently pending review and concurrence by the State Historic Preservation Officer.

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
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Page 2

Chowchilla Heritage Preservation Commission

Because of the Commission's knowledge of the local area, we would appreciate any input you may have regarding the presence of additional historic properties within or near the project area. If you have any knowledge of and/or concerns about potential effects to historic properties, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone at 916-403-0061, or by email at sarah.allred@hsr.ca.gov.

For additional information regarding the Central Valley Wye project, please visit the Authority's website at: http://www.hsr.ca.gov/Programs/Statewide_Rail_Modernization/Project_Sections/merced_fresno.html

Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,



Sarah M. Allred

Senior Environmental Planner – Cultural Resources Specialist

Attachment: Project Location Map – Central Valley Wye Alternatives

cc: Stephanie Perez, FRA;
Diana Gomez, Authority;
Mark McLoughlin, Authority



May 26, 2015

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Madera County Historical Society
210 West Yosemite Avenue
Madera, CA 93637

Subject: **California High-Speed Rail Project, Central Valley Wye – Request for Input**

To whom it may concern:

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority), in conjunction with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), is responsible for planning, designing, building, and operating the first high-speed rail project in the nation. As part of this effort, the Authority and the FRA are currently conducting environmental studies for three potential alignment alternatives that are under consideration for the Central Valley Wye portion of the high-speed rail system located in portions of Merced and Madera Counties. The Central Valley Wye will ultimately serve as the junction that connects the north-south rail line in the Central Valley with the east-west line to the Bay area (please see enclosed map).

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
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Page 2

Madera County Historical Society

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May 26, 2015

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Merced County Historical Society
Merced County Courthouse Museum
21st and N Streets
Merced, CA 95340

Subject: California High-Speed Rail Project, Central Valley Wye – Request for Input

To whom it may concern:

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority), in conjunction with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), is responsible for planning, designing, building, and operating the first high-speed rail project in the nation. As part of this effort, the Authority and the FRA are currently conducting environmental studies for three potential alignment alternatives that are under consideration for the Central Valley Wye portion of the high-speed rail system located in portions of Merced and Madera Counties. The Central Valley Wye will ultimately serve as the junction that connects the north-south rail line in the Central Valley with the east-west line to the Bay area (please see enclosed map).

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Merced County Historical Society

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The Milliken Museum Society of Los Banos
Attention: Charles Sawyer
905 E. Pacheco Boulevard
Los Banos, CA 93635

Subject: **California High-Speed Rail Project, Central Valley Wye – Request for Input**

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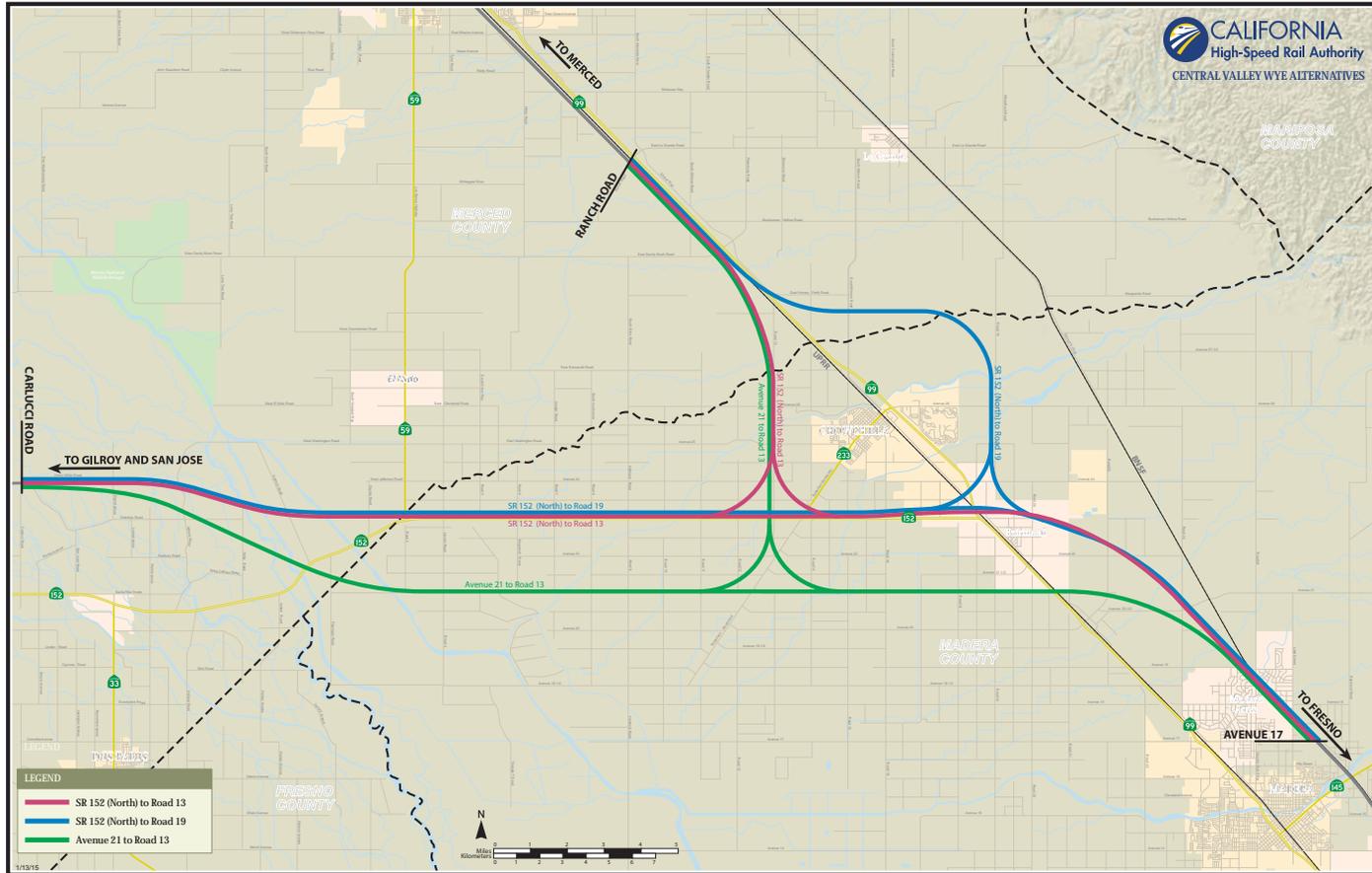
Sarah M. Allred

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Recommended for Study in the Merced to Fresno Subsequent EIR/Supplemental EIS



Preliminary and Subject to Change

