

DEPARTMENT: Supervisor Aborn

BY: Supervisor Aborn

PHONE: 966-3222

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION: Approve letter of support for placement of a high-speed rail maintenance facility at the former Castle Air Force Base. Placement of the maintenance facility would provide an incentive for the authority to utilize the northern route. The facility would also provide for additional job opportunities in the Merced area which would have positive effects on Mariposa, as well.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS: The County has been cooperating with Merced County regarding the high-speed rail project and has traditionally supported projects which have positive economic effects on the region.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION: The project will not have Mariposa's formal support.

Financial Impact? () Yes (x) No	Current FY Cost: \$	Annual Recurring Cost: \$
Budgeted In Current FY? () Yes () No () Partially Funded		
Amount in Budget: \$		List Attachments, number pages consecutively
Additional Funding Needed: \$		Draft letter
Source:		
Internal Transfer		
Unanticipated Revenue	_____ 4/5's vote	
Transfer Between Funds	_____ 4/5's vote	
Contingency	_____ 4/5's vote	
() General () Other		

CLERK'S USE ONLY:

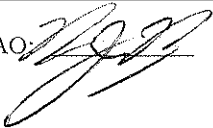
Res. No.: 10-91 Ord. No. _____
 Vote - Ayes: 5 Noes: _____
 Absent: _____
 Approved
 Minute Order Attached No Action Necessary

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

Date: _____
 Attest: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
 County of Mariposa, State of California
 By: _____
 Deputy

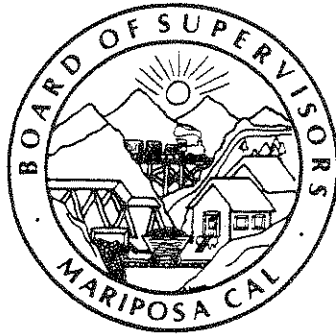
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

Requested Action Recommended
 No Opinion
 Comments:

CAO: 

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

District 1 BRAD ABORN
District 2 LYLE TURPIN
District 3 JANET BIBBY
District 4 KEVIN CANN
District 5 JIM ALLEN



RICHARD J. BENSON
County Administrative Officer

MARGIE WILLIAMS
Clerk of the Board

P.O. Box 784
MARIPOSA, CALIFORNIA 95338
(209) 966-3222
1-800-736-1252

FAX (209) 966-5147
www.mariposacounty.org/board

February 23, 2010

California High-Speed Rail Authority
925 L Street, Ste. 1425
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear members of the Authority:

The Board of Supervisors of Mariposa County supports the proposal to locate the heavy maintenance facility at the former Castle Air Force Base in Merced County. The location is now an untapped resource with valuable infrastructure already in place. It is well-suited for the industrial activities necessary for the facility. As the facility is already on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe rail line, we believe the location has an advantage regarding acquiring necessary right-of-way.

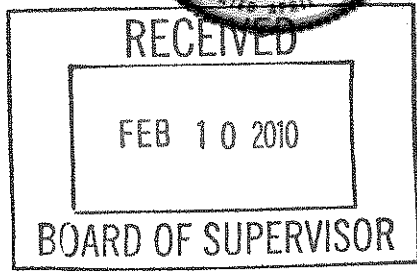
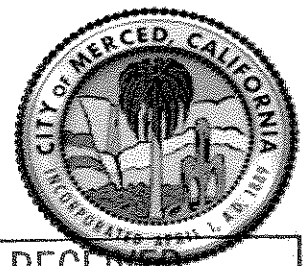
The Northern San Joaquin Valley has faced unique economic challenges in recent years. A facility of this nature could go a long way in helping to resolve those issues. Mariposa County believes it is in the best interest of the project and the state to seriously consider utilizing Castle Air Force Base.

Sincerely,

Kevin Cann
Chairman

cc: Supervisor Pedrozo, Merced County Board of Supervisors

cc: BOS
CAO
Files



February 3, 2010

Kevin Cann
Chairman, Mariposa County Board of Supervisors
P.O. Box 784
Mariposa, CA 95338

SUBJECT: High Speed Rail

Dear Chair Cann,

The Greater Merced High Speed Rail Committee has filed an Expression of Interest to the California High Speed Rail Authority to locate the Heavy Maintenance Facility (HMF) in Merced County. The Greater Merced High Speed Rail Committee selected two sites to submit to the California High Speed Rail Authority in order to be more competitive depending upon the rail alignment selected for the High Speed Rail line. The preferred site is the former Castle Air Force Base located on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe line. The proposed locations are the most northern sites presented to the Authority to locate their Heavy Maintenance Facility. The location of both Merced County sites will allow your citizens easy access to new well paying jobs that will benefit the entire northern San Joaquin Valley communities reduce our unemployment. The Heavy Maintenance Facility will employ 1,500 with the potential of another 3,000 indirect jobs being generated by firms interested in supplying the HMF with parts and services they will not have on site.

Besides benefiting our northern San Joaquin Valley region with additional jobs and opportunities for manufacturers, a HMF located in Merced County would also increase the likelihood that the Merced to Sacramento segment of the California High Speed Rail would be constructed in addition to funding provided for improvements to connecting commuter services.

We ask for your support in the form of a letter or resolution that will promote Merced County as the best location for placing a High Speed Rail HMF.

In addition, last week the Obama Administration announced that California is going to receive \$2,349,400,000 of the \$8 billion in stimulus funding for high-speed train development under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This is only half of the amount requested by the California High Speed Rail representatives which means some of the segments of high speed rail lines may not be built at this time, possibly leaving the Merced to Sacramento segment to be built years later. We believe it's important that we all communicate to the California High Speed Rail Authority that these ARRA funds be used to build track for the segment north of Fresno. Your efforts can make a difference.

Respectfully,

John Pedrozo
Supervisor, District 1
County of Merced

Bill Spriggs
Mayor
City of Merced

cc: Mariposa County Board of Supervisors