



CITY OF LA MIRADA
DEDICATED TO SERVICE

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October 19, 2012

The Honorable Linda Sanchez
Congresswoman, 39th District
17906 Crusader Avenue, Suite. 100
Cerritos, California 90703

Dear Congresswoman Sanchez:

The City of La Mirada anticipates receiving a petition with nearly 800 signatures from residents requesting construction of a railroad sound wall buffer along Stage Road, which runs some 1.8-miles parallel to the BNSF Railway in La Mirada. I want to make you aware of these concerns, and request your assistance in identifying potential funding sources for railroad noise mitigating measures.

The area residents have been concerned with the noise situation for decades. They are concerned with noise from existing railroad operations and now with the potential increase in noise resulting from the Triple Track Project and proposed High Speed Rail Project. The Valley View Grade Separation project, which is currently underway, should significantly reduce train horns in the area, but residents are still concerned with other noise associated with rail operations, such as railcar coupling, idling trains, "train building" and other railroad maneuvers. Although some residents requested installation of a sound wall during public meetings related to the Environmental Impact Report for the Triple Track Project on May 7, 2003, the sound was never identified nor budgeted. Unfortunately, the City does not anticipate as having any available funding now and in the future for a sound wall.

Caltrans' Triple Track Project was completed in anticipation of rail traffic growth. Approximately 70 trains moved through this area on a typical day in the 1970s. This segment of the BNSF Railway currently handles about 100 trains daily, but the additional track will accommodate double that amount. We recognize the additional track will not increase rail traffic in and of itself, but this project demonstrates that BNSF is anticipating increased rail activity in the future. Our residents are concerned these increased rail operations will negatively impact their property values and quality of life.

As you are aware, the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) has proposed using the BNSF Railway Corridor through La Mirada as its preferred route. This route is directly adjacent to single-family dwellings, and the City has repeatedly expressed its serious concerns regarding the potential negative impacts of the high speed rail system on these neighborhoods. The CHSRA has not satisfactorily addressed our concerns. While detailed project information continues to be unavailable, increased rail operations

resulting from the proposed high speed rail project will further negatively impact La Mirada residents. Our position is the CHSRA must build a sound buffer wall as part of any high speed rail service through La Mirada.

Our staff is currently exploring a variety of funding alternatives that may be available for a sound buffer wall project. Again, we would appreciate any assistance your office could provide in this matter.

Sincerely,

CITY OF LA MIRADA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gabriel P. Garcia', written over the printed name.

Gabriel P. Garcia
Mayor

GG:TER:jmb
