



ANTHONY RENDON
SPEAKER of the ASSEMBLY
Sixty-Third Assembly District

January 25, 2018

Dan Richard
Chair, Board of Directors
California High-Speed Rail Authority
770 L Street, Suite 800
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Richard:

I write in response to your January 22, 2018 letter. I have concerns regarding extending the due date of the 2018 Business Plan (30-day extension from May 1, 2018 to June 1, 2018).

In 2013, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed AB 528 (Lowenthal), Chapter 237, which moved the due date for the High Speed Rail (HSR) Business Plan from January 1 to May 1, every other year. This change was made after discussions between the Authority and the Legislature to create better opportunities for both public and legislative oversight and input. The 30-day delay presents serious challenges for members and staff to adequately review the business plan in light of the timing of the Governor's May Revision to the budget and other legislative and fiscal deadlines. The delay will reduce our ability to perform vital oversight and provide meaningful input to the high speed rail program.

Given that the requirement to deliver the HSR Business Plan every other year is set in statute, I am unclear as to what authority the HSR Board of Directors is relying upon to extend the deadline. The letter from Louis Thompson, Chair of the California HSR Peer Review Group, suggests that the Authority consider requesting a delay in submission until the business plan is more completely developed. Typically, the Legislature expects an opportunity to weigh in on statutory matters before such decisions are made.

We understand the challenges that this project has presented and look forward to providing meaningful input and assistance whenever possible, particularly when it involves deadline requirements that originated from Assembly legislation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff with any questions you may have. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



ANTHONY RENDON
Speaker of the Assembly

cc: Honorable Jim Beall, Senate Transportation and Housing Committee
Honorable Jim Frazier, Assembly Transportation Committee

Honorable Holly Mitchell, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Honorable Philip Ting, Assembly Budget Committee
Honorable Dr. Joaquin Arambula, Ex Officio Member, California High Speed Rail Authority
Mr. Eric Thronson, Chief Consultant, Assembly Transportation Committee
Mr. Randy Chinn, Chief Consultant, Senate Transportation and Housing Committee
Mr. Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Mr. Joe Stephenshaw, Staff Director, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Mr. Dan Reeves, Chief of Staff, Senate Pro Tempore
Mr. Nick Hardeman, Chief of Staff, State Senator Toni Atkins
Mr. Lou Thompson, Chair, Peer Review Group