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City of Chowchilla

# Press Release



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## City of Chowchilla considers action to stop High Speed Rail Project

### Chowchilla City Council to consider action to temporarily prohibit High Speed Railway construction in the City unless negative impacts are resolved

Chowchilla, CA, July 22, 2011: On the upcoming July 25, 2011 Chowchilla City Council meeting agenda is the consideration of an Urgency Ordinance that would impose a temporary moratorium on the construction of any portion of the High Speed Rail system within the City limits unless negative impacts from the proposed project are resolved.

At the July 11, 2011 Chowchilla City Council meeting, a representative of the California High Speed Rail Authority presented a number of potential routes that were being considered by the Authority that would bisect the City of Chowchilla in two directions. One proposed route would travel north-south while the other would travel in an east-west direction. Many residents and business owners are expressing concern the effect of any of the proposed routes bisecting the City would prove to be detrimental to the City of Chowchilla for the following reasons:

1. Jeopardizes public safety by limiting police and fire access to parcels of property delaying response times.
2. Eliminates or damages current businesses operating within City limits.
3. Causes blight and excessive noise.

Mayor David Alexander stated "The Chowchilla City Council is continuing its efforts to protect its citizens from the potentially adverse effects of the High Speed Rail Project to our City and we are attempting to mitigate the outcome on our community."

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If adopted, the proposed Urgency Ordinance would prohibit any construction of any railway project in the City until the City can establish a comprehensive ordinance detailing the permitting process for building any of the High Speed Rail System within the City limits of the City of Chowchilla until it is determined that any such route would be the least detrimental to the health, safety, and welfare of the City's residents.

The proposed moratorium would remain in effect from the date of adoption until September 8, 2011, unless the City acts to extend or repeal the date. The moratorium is designed to allow time for further study of the impacts of the proposed routes to determine the best interests of public health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the City of Chowchilla.

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