

Mayor
Willard Rodarmel
Mayor Pro Tem
John Plourde
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William Siegel



**Planning
Department**

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STAFF REPORT

Item # 5

To: Lemoore City Council
From: Holly Smyth, Planning Director
Date: February 27, 2012
Subject: Opposition to the High Speed Rail Project

Background:

The California High Speed Rail Authority (the "Authority") has been working on corridor alignments, station locations, and environmental review for a future high speed rail system over the last several years. With the passing of the high speed rail bond in California and the awarding of federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds for high speed rail, the Authority has picked up the pace of the overall project, as project construction must begin in 2012 in the Valley to keep the federal funds.

Kings County Community Development Department has been the most personally involved with the Authority trying to resolve rail alignment issues that conflict with their General Plan as well as the concerns of dozens of angry property owners. When the Authority staff continued to move forward without addressing the concerns brought forward by Kings County planners, the Kings County Board of Supervisors passed a Resolution opposing the high speed rail project and rescinded a prior resolution of support. Attached is a map of the current alignment options from the Rail Authority's website being included in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that is moving forward.

At the last Lemoore City Council meeting, staff was given direction to prepare opposition to the project. Attached is a draft resolution for your consideration, that generally follows the format of Kings County's resolution but modified to meet Lemoore's specific issues.

Budget Impact:

None.

Recommendation:

That the Lemoore City Council, by motion, adopt Resolution #2012-09 opposing the high speed rail project in its current proposed state based on the reasons stated therein.

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