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CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY

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High-Speed Train Board Approves Draft Partnership Pacts With Sacramento and Altamont Rail Planning Agencies

Sacramento, CA – California high-speed train officials Thursday gave staff the go-ahead to enter partnerships with local and regional agencies and transit providers to propose and develop passenger rail infrastructure projects in the Altamont Pass Corridor and to collaborate on linking the system between Sacramento and Merced.

Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson urged the nine-member California High-Speed Rail Authority Board last March to accelerate attention on extending the bullet train to Sacramento. And the Board previously adopted a policy calling for planning and development of joint-use in the Altamont Pass corridor between Merced and San Jose.

"We want to work cooperatively with both Sacramento and the San Joaquin Rail Commission to ensure that we achieve the best, most efficient and most cost effective results as the high-speed train system is developed in the future," said Board Chairman Quentin Kopp. "By entering agreements with these agencies, we can begin to make that happen in a way that works for everyone involved."

The agreements, which will be finalized by city and state staff, will guide future cooperation between the agencies, ensuring that all parties will have a role in the planning of high-speed train service in their areas.

"We're excited about the work that has recently started on our Railyards redevelopment project," said Mayor Johnson. "Development of a new Intermodal facility, the future home of Sacramento's high-speed train service, is an important element of those plans and we look forward to getting the critical first phase of that project – relocating the rail tracks – underway soon. We also look forward to initiating the planning work needed to better define the nature of high-speed train service in our city."

The California High-Speed Rail Authority is responsible for building high-speed train service covering 800 miles at speeds over 220 MPH. Voters approved Proposition 1A on the November 2008 ballot putting a down payment on what will be America's first high-speed train system.

By linking all major cities in California with a state of the art new transportation option, California's high-speed train system will increase mobility while cutting air pollution and

reducing the greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming. Building the high-speed train system will cost less than half the cost of freeway and aviation alternatives. Operating the system will create an annual surplus of more than \$1 billion.

For route information, visual simulations and more, please visit www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov.

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