

CITY OF PALO ALTO
MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 6, 2008
TO: City Council Colleagues
FROM: Mayor Klein and Council Member Yoriko Kishimoto
SUBJECT: Request for the City Council to Support State Proposition 1A

RECOMMENDATION

We hope you will join us in supporting the attached resolution endorsing State Proposition 1A, the High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act on the November ballot.

BACKGROUND

The issues surrounding how High Speed Rail comes to and through the Bay Area, including potentially through and perhaps stopping at Palo Alto, will be an important topic for our community and will be accompanied by more environmental studies and policy discussions. The bond measure will ensure that California implements the first important segments of a state-wide high speed rail system.

The back up material to this agenda item provides eloquent detail why California needs high-speed passenger trains as soon as possible. In brief, high-speed rail will provide a faster, far better environmental solution to the problem of moving our state's growing population from one part of the state to another. High-speed passenger rail is a proven technology. France and Japan have long had effective, efficient, safe systems in operation. Other countries, such as Germany and China, are heavily committed to deploying even faster systems. The United States lags far behind.

It's time for California to take the U.S. lead.

RESOLUTION NO.
RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALO ALTO
SUPPORTING STATE OF CALIFORNIA BALLOT PROPOSITION 1A, THE
SAFE, RELIABLE HIGH-SPEED PASSENGER TRAIN BOND ACT FOR THE
21ST CENTURY

WHEREAS, Palo Alto and the entire Bay Area have an established and long standing commitment to providing an environmentally friendly, economically viable means of transportation for our residents, including high-speed rail capable of speed as much as 220 miles-per-hour; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 1A has been strengthened and improved by financial and construction milestones, together with environmental and private and federal participation enhancements; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 1A enables the California High Speed Rail Authority to proceed to construct Phase 1 of the systems from San Francisco to Anaheim via San Jose, Merced, Fresno, Bakersfield, Palmdale and Los Angeles, using matching federal, local and private funds; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 1A guarantees that \$950,000,000 of the \$9,995,000,000 bond measure will be allocated to intercity, commuter and urban rail systems for direct connections to high-speed rail; and

WHEREAS, the passage of Proposition 1A would commence the building of high-speed rail with its attendant immediate benefits to California's economic vitality, environmental sustainability, air quality and increasing population; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 1A and the California high-speed rail project will create economic opportunity with approximately 160,000 construction jobs and 450,000 permanent jobs; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 1A and the California High Speed Rail Project will provide a safe, timely reliable mode of transportation for California's projected 2030 population of 50,000,000 people.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Palo Alto does hereby declare support of Proposition 1A and urges all citizens to vote for such measure on November 4, 2008.

INTRODUCED AND PASSED:

AYES: Barton, Burt, Drekmeier, Espinosa, Kishimoto, Klein, Morton, Schmid, Yeh

NOES:

ABSENTIONS:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney

APPROVED:

Mayor

City Manager