

Mr. Leslie Rogers
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
Region 9
201 Mission St. Suite 1650
San Francisco, Ca.
94105-1839

Dec. 20, 2010

Dear Mr. Rogers,

For over 9 years public input through city resolutions, letters, written comments and oral testimony at RCTC meetings have requested that a Metrolink stop be built next to the # 3 BNSF railroad track in Highgrove where there is vacant land next to the track used by Metrolink commuter trains 7 days a week. But RCTC continues to insist that the station be located in the Hunter Park Area that would only serve commuters between Riverside and Perris when the Perris Valley Line is re-built for passenger service sometime in the future.

On July 15, 2006 Metrolink commuter train service between San Bernardino and Riverside was increased to 7 days a week. That increased the number of commuter trains going through Highgrove without stopping, to 62 commuter trains per week.

For the past several years, there have been 3,224 commuter trains per year that could have stopped at a platform in Highgrove where there is ample room for parking. These figures are before the addition of any future trains planned on the Perris Valley Line between Riverside and Perris.

Thousands of these trains could have served thousands of commuters in both directions!

July 15, 2006 to Dec. 31, 2006 there were 1,612 commuter trains that passed through Highgrove

In 2007 there were.....	3,224	“	“	“	“	“	“
In 2008 there were.....	3,224	“	“	“	“	“	“
In 2009 there were.....	3,224	“	“	“	“	“	“
In 2010 there were.....	3,224	“	“	“	“	“	“

There have been 14,508 commuter trains that have passed through Highgrove since July 15, 2006 when Metrolink commuter train service was increased to 7 days a week. The Colton crossing that has just been approved, will allow even more future commuter trains that could use the Highgrove station that would benefit the entire region on both sides of the county line.

But the station in the Hunter Park Area planned by RCTC, will not transport any commuters between San Bernardino and Riverside counties. If RCTC is allowed to build a future station in the Hunter Park Area of the Perris Valley Line, **existing** and **future** commuter trains will continue pass through Highgrove without stopping.

Here are the facts:

- 1. THE PURCHASE OF THE VACANT 19 ACRES AT HIGHGROVE BETWEEN THE BNSF TRACKS AND THE PERRIS VALLEY TRACK IS MANDATORY TO CONNECT THE 2 RAILROADS FOR FUTURE PVL METROLINK TRAINS.**
- 2. SINCE RCTC HAS TO HAVE THE 19 ACRE PROPERTY TO CONNECT THE 2 RAILROADS, A STATION COULD BE PLACED ON THE WEST SIDE OF THIS SAME PROPERTY RIGHT NEXT TO THE BNSF TRACK WHERE THERE ARE EXISTING METROLINK TRAINS.**

3. **THE SAME 19 ACRE PROPERTY COULD BE USED FOR THE CURVED TRACK CONNECTION AND A STATION ON THE WEST SIDE.**
4. **NO OTHER PROPERTY WOULD HAVE TO BE PURCHASED FOR ANOTHER STATION IN THE HUNTER PARK AREA.**
5. **THE 25 ACRE PROPERTY BETWEEN PALMYRITA AVE. AND COLUMBIA AVE. ON THE PERRIS VALLEY LINE IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR A METROLINK STATION BECAUSE IT IS NOW OCCUPIED BY A 507,000 SQ. FT. WAREHOUSE.**
6. **THE SAME STATION PLATFORM AT HIGHGROVE COULD BE USED FOR FUTURE COMMUTERS WHEN THE PERRIS VALLEY LINE IS FINISHED.**
7. **RCTC's PLAN DOES NOT INCLUDE STOPPING ANY OF THE EXISTING OR FUTURE METROLINK COMMUTER TRAINS THAT CONTINUE TO GO THROUGH HIGHGROVE BETWEEN SAN BERNARDINO AND RIVERSIDE.**

THIS \$232 MILLION DOLLAR PROJECT WILL USE FEDERAL TAX DOLLARS AND TRANSPORTATION MONEY THAT SHOULD BENEFIT THE ENTIRE REGION ON BOTH SIDES OF THE RIVERSIDE/SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY LINE!

We are not trying to stop the Perris Valley Line project. Station placement is the only issue due to the difference in destinations and existing commuter trains. The Highgrove Station could serve commuters between Riverside and San Bernardino counties now, and later between Riverside and Perris when the Perris Valley Line is completed.

I am requesting a review of the enclosed information and asking you to look at the map and the written supporting documentation of 59 pages. I am also enclosing a 2 page article titled: **Complaints against Riverside County Transportation Commission**, for your review.

Please feel free to call if there are any questions.

Thank you,

R. A. "Barney" Barnett
 Editor; Highgrove Happenings Newspaper
 Chairman, Highgrove Municipal Advisory Council
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For additional information please visit our web site: www.highgrovehappenings.net

Cc: Senator Diane Feinstein	City of Loma Linda
Senator Barbara Boxer	City of Colton
Senator Bob Dutton	University Neighborhood Association
Senator Bill Emmerson	North Side Improvement Association
Congressman Ken Calvert	Highgrove Municipal Advisory Council
Congressman Joe Baca	WRCOG
Assembly member Brian Nestande	SCAG
Assembly member Kevin Jeffries	SCRRA
City of Riverside	SANBAG
City of San Bernardino	RCTC Commissioners
City of Grand Terrace	(continued next page)

Contents of information submitted to Federal Transit Administration:

Prepared by Highgrove Happenings Newspaper Dec. 20, 2010

Colored map: **Public's choice for a Metrolink Station shown at Green X**

RCTC's choice for a Metrolink Station shown at **Red X**



<u>Date</u>	<u>Article</u>
Dec. 13, 2001	Resolution from City of Grand Terrace supporting Highgrove Metrolink (2 pages)
June 2001 to Feb. 2009:	Misc articles that appeared in Highgrove Happenings Newspaper (22 pages)
Jan. 24, 2002	Unanimous support from Loma Linda City Council (1 page)
Oct. 21, 2005	Letter of support from University Neighborhood Association (1 page)
June 21, 2006	Letter of support from Hugh Grant (1 page)
June 23, 2006	Letter of support from Tony Petta (1 page)
Aug. 14, 2006	Letter of support from Assemblyman Bill Emmerson (1 page)
Oct. 11, 2006	Comments from Supervisors Buster and Ashley and former RCTC Executive Director Eric Haley (1 page)
Dec. 2006	Public outcry expressed at RCTC meeting (5 pages)
Dec. 31, 2006	“Wanted-New Metrolink Station” San Bernardino Sun article (2 pages)
Feb. 14, 2009	“He wants Metrolink to stop in Highgrove” Press Enterprise article (3 pages)
Undated	Letter from The Transit Coalition (1 page)
Jan. 2010 issue	P. 7 Highgrove Happenings Newspaper: Grand Terrace updates support for Highgrove Metrolink Station (1 page)
Jan 14, 2010	Highgrove Metrolink comments over the last 8 years (5 pages)

Feb. 2010 issue Front page and P. 4 Highgrove Happenings Newspaper: **Highgrove Metrolink site rejected by committee.** (2 pages)
 April 2010 issue Front page and P. 8 Highgrove Happenings Newspaper: **“Wrong track-Wrong location”** (2 pages)
 July 2010 issue P. 6 & 7 Highgrove Happenings Newspaper: **Palmyrita/Columbia not available due to construction and Robin Lowe from Hemet continues to receive criticism.** (2 pages)
 Aug. 2010 Front page & P. 5 **2 Important Notices, What is SCAG and Primary issues on station location** (2 pages)
 Sept. 2010 P. 3 **Copy of un-answered letter** (1 page)
 Oct. 2010 P. 4, 5, and 9 **RCTC responds to letter and editor’s comments about Ann Mayer letter** (3 pages)

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Complaints against Riverside County Transportation Commission

Dec. 20, 2010 *By R. A. “Barney” Barnett, Editor- “Highgrove Happenings Newspaper”*

The following is a list of complaints against RCTC for their past inappropriate actions:

Aug. 16, 2004 30 packets were given to RCTC for distribution to the commissioners.

- They contained:
1. Resolution of support for a station at Highgrove from CSA 126
 2. Resolution of support for a station at Highgrove from City of Grand Terrace
 3. Resolution of support for a station at Highgrove from Highgrove PAC
 4. Letter of unanimous support from City of Loma Linda

THESE 30 PACKETS WERE NOT DISTRIBUTED TO THE RCTC COMMISSIONERS FOR 14 MONTHS.

Sept. 15, 2006 Due to local objections from Highgrove and the University Neighborhood Association near UCR, the Perris Valley Line “WORKSHOP” was held in La Quinta, Ca. which is 77 MILES AWAY.

Oct. 11, 2006 Eric Haley, RCTC Executive Director at that time stated: *“Highgrove station would be too close to the county line”; “Buying the Highgrove property would be land banking and RCTC is not in the business of land banking”; “The Colton Flyover costs would have to be added to the Highgrove station”; “ The residents of San Bernardino County would be using the Highgrove station!”*

Nov. 28, 2006 RCTC Commissioners instructed staff to arrange for a tour of the Highgrove location but Eric Haley scheduled it on the same day as the Board of Supervisors meeting. The 5 members of the Board of Supervisors are also RCTC Commissioners but none of them could attend. And instead of a bus load of commissioners visiting the site as requested, two on track SUVs (Hi-Rail cars) were put on the Perris Valley Line track at Center St. and the 2 SUVs DID NOT STOP AT THE HIGHGROVE

SITE. This property is not visible from the track due to a dirt bank on the west side of the track. That is why a bus was requested.

Jan. 10, 2007 “Additional Information” was handed out to the RCTC Commissioners just before the RCTC meeting on Jan 10, 2007 dated Jan. 18, 2007 which was 8 days into the future. It was labeled “Minute Action” and contained information stating how SANBAG would support RCTC’s staff’s position at their upcoming meeting.

Jan. 18, 2007 The exact same wording from RCTC’s meeting on Jan. 10, 2007 was read into the minutes at the SANBAG meeting held in San Bernardino on Jan. 18, 2007.

April 4, 2007 SCAG (Southern California Associated Governments) wanted to initiate a feasibility study of the Highgrove Metrolink station which was an independent study from the RCTC study. At the April 4, 2007 SANBAG meeting, SANBAG decided to not vote on the Highgrove Station Location but instead voted to:

“Reconsider the matter based upon the results of the SCAG feasibility study”

April 5, 2007 The following day after the SANBAG meeting RCTC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ERIC HALEY AND ROBIN LOWE, RCTC COMMISSIONER FROM HEMET, WENT TO THE LOS ANGELES SCAG MEETING AND STOPPED THE SCAG INDEPENDENT STUDY.

(I have a tape recording of this meeting)

June 26, 2008 Several community members attended an RCTC Ad Hoc meeting but we were not allowed to speak. I requested a tape recording of the meeting but RCTC said it was not available.

April 27, 2009 I was invited to RCTC meeting and given 13 reasons why the Highgrove location would be denied. The 13 reasons were prepared by RCTC’s consultants- STV Incorporated. I was not allowed to show our power point at the meeting.

Aug. 10, 2009 R. A. Barnett gave written response to each of STV’s 13 reasons in a 12 page article with photos.

Oct. 9, 2009 Denis Kidd wrote a 1 page rebuttal to STV’s 13 reasons for denial.

Jan. 25, 2010 Special Ad Hoc meeting held by RCTC to hear presentation by R. A. Barnett and William Addington. Mr. Addington is a Retired Civil Engineer with 54 years experience and volunteered to assist in my presentation. I explained that station location is our only concern and we are not trying to stop the project. Mr. Addington confirmed the Highgrove site is possible with good engineering.

April 5, 2010 The Draft EIR was advertised as available at the RCTC office, and 4 libraries, Riverside, Moreno Valley, Perris and Woodcrest. But No EIR was supplied to the Library which is only ½ mile away from the Highgrove Metrolink site.

Later the Highgrove library was furnished a copy after I contacted RCTC.

(Documentation of all above information available upon request)

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