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VICE CHAIR, PRIVACY AND
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NATURAL RESOURCES
TRANSPORTATION

September 22, 2026

The Honorable Rob Bonta
Attorney General of California
California Department of Justice
1300 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Request for Investigation of Improper Payments to High-Speed Rail Consultants

Dear Attorney General Bonta:

We write to demand an investigation of wasteful spending uncovered by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) for the California High-Speed Rail. In a report released on September 15, 2026, the OIG substantiated allegations that the High-Speed Rail Authority improperly reimbursed \$543,400 in unallowable travel expenses for the Authority's private consultants. Troubling examples of these expenses include first-class plane tickets, private jet travel and premium rideshare trips for travel to locations with no identifiable state purpose—including expensive restaurants, nightclubs, gyms, cigar lounges, tiki bars and "other questionable or unidentified locations."

The OIG identified numerous instances where "the Authority's CEO or another member of its executive team wanted the travel to take place" and ordered the payments "over objections" raised by Authority staff that the payment was not permissible. These actions were knowing and willful. The OIG notes that "staff's attempts to enforce contract terms were apparently resisted or overridden."

The California False Claims Act (Government Code Sec. 12650 et seq.) prohibits the payment of reimbursement claims "in deliberate ignorance" or "reckless disregard" of the truth. In this case, the OIG found the Authority appeared to have knowledge that the claims were impermissible but ordered payment regardless. The Attorney General is required to "diligently investigate violations" of the False Claims Act and can recover damages of three times the amount of the improper payments. Therefore, I ask for you to initiate an investigation into these payments and recover wasted taxpayer dollars.

We also ask that you investigate whether executives at the High-Speed Rail Authority violated any criminal statutes in ordering these payments, including misappropriation of

public funds (Penal Code Sec. 424). The OIG has found a “pattern of Authority noncompliance” with contracting laws that is not only a “waste of public funds,” but is also “inconsistent with the Authority’s role as the steward of public resources.”

California taxpayers provide \$1 BILLION per year to fund the high-speed rail project. Motorists pay for this project every time they fill up their gas tanks. Our constituents deserve transparency and accountability to ensure that their hard-earned money isn’t misspent to support the luxury lifestyles of highly paid consultants. Nobody is above the law. We expect the Attorney General’s office to fully investigate this matter and take immediate action against any fraud or corruption at the High-Speed Rail Authority.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions or would like additional information, please call me at 916-319-2033.

Sincerely,



ALEXANDRA M. MACEDO
Assembly Republican Leader
33rd Assembly District



BRIAN JONES
Senate Minority Leader
40th Senate District



TOM LACKEY
34th Assembly District



ROGER NIELLO
6th Senate District



JOSH HOOVER
7th Assembly District



ROSILICIE OCHOA BOGH
19th Senate District



LAURIE DAVIES
74th Assembly District



SUZETTE VALLADARES
23rd Senate District



NATASHA JOHNSON
63rd Assembly District



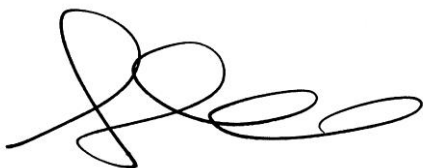
MARIE ALVARADO-GIL
4th Senate District



KATE SANCHEZ
71st Assembly District



KELLY SEYARTO
32nd Senate District



STAN ELLIS
32nd Assembly District



SHANNON GROVE
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TONY STRICKLAND
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DAVID TANGIPA
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