

Rail meeting Monday

Wednesday, Feb. 08, 2012 | 12:00 AM

High-speed rail followers please take note. On Monday at 10 a.m., the Fresno County Council of Governments will host a well-staffed public workshop on the project.

COG offices are officially closed that day, but COG's Sequoia Conference Room will be open for the workshop. The workshop consists of reports on the project's latest developments, followed by a Q & A session.

Reviewing the project will be High-Speed Rail Authority president, Dan Richard, and vice president Tom Richards. HSR staff, officials from Caltrans, the city of Fresno, and other agencies will also be present. Supervisor Henry Perea and Mayor Ashley Swearingin are expected to speak on behalf of the Fresno Works Committee.

Following negative reviews of the project by the federal GAO, the state LAO and HSRA's own peer review group, Gov. Jerry Brown has staunchly defended the project. Yet resignations of key HSRA staff, from Executive Director Roelof van Ark and associate directors, and the cancellation of HSRA's outreach consulting contract, coupled with a change over of seats on the board, paint a cloudy horizon.

This could be an excellent opportunity for members of the community to inform themselves about what is happening with HSR.

Tom Bailey

Chairman, Fresno COG Rail Committee