

Merced Mission Site for the California High Speed Rail Heavy Maintenance Facility (HMF)



On January 15, 2010 the Greater Merced High-Speed Rail Committee presented the California High-Speed Rail Authority with an Expression of Interest to locate a High-Speed Rail Heavy Maintenance Facility (HMF) at the Merced Mission Site. The Site is located in southeast Merced, outside the city limits but inside the Sphere of Influence.

Site at a Glance

222 acres in size:	Exceeds the size requirements for the Heavy Maintenance Facility
Ownership:	16 property owners but one dominant owner (131 acres), who has applied in the past for annexation to the City, with intent to urbanize
Planning/Zoning:	Planned and zoned for urban use: primarily industrial and commercial
Primarily vacant:	Includes several residences and businesses clustered at north end of site
Railroad Access:	Directly adjacent to Union Pacific Railroad line
Multi-modal Site:	Freight rail adjacent to site; proximate to Merced Regional Airport, with passenger service and cargo capability; outstanding direct access to California Highway 99
Highway Access:	Adjacent to California Highway 99; access to site with new interchange
Utilities:	Sewer on site from City of Merced; water near site from City of Merced
Electric Power:	On site from PG&E, and available from Merced Irrigation District; unique competitive situation allows CHSRA to negotiate rates substantially below market
Environmental:	Site environmental reports show no significant contamination issues; no wetlands; no known cultural resources

Key Features and Incentives

- Ready access to Merced Regional Airport and Union Pacific Railroad provides multimodal linkages for operations of HMF
- Lowest possible electrical power cost of any HMF site for minimized operational costs
- Coordinated assistance in recruiting and training the HMF's 1,500 employees from WorkNet and Merced College
- Incentives already in place:
 - In an Enterprise Zone, offering tax credits for new employment
 - In a Redevelopment Project Area, offering assistance with necessary infrastructure
- Expedited permit processing due to CEQA environmental work already completed for Merced General Plan and South Merced Specific Plan; City pledges fast-tracking
- Unified community support from local governments, and community organizations, including business, labor, neighborhood, educational and environmental groups

Community Benefits

- The HMF brings 1,500 jobs directly, and will generate 3,000 additional indirect jobs, generating approximately \$320M in payroll
- Additional retail sales of \$80 million annually and \$8 million in sales taxes to local governments
- Brings infill development to southeast Merced
- Economic incentives from the federal and state governments will draw investors to the area

Greater Merced High Speed Rail Committee, Inc.:

The Greater Merced High Speed Rail Committee has worked since 2003 to educate and advocate for high speed rail. The Committee formally incorporated as a nonprofit public benefit corporation in January 2009, and has established a unified regional approach for high-speed rail involving the County of Merced and its cities (including Merced and Atwater), local business and industry, Merced College, the University of California Merced, and others.

The Committee's Board of Directors includes representation of all key stakeholder groups for high-speed rail in Merced County, and is led by the private sector with public sector support.

Dr. Lee Boese, Jr., President 177 W. El Portal Drive Merced, CA 95348 209-469-5356

