

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0520

February 10, 2026

Mr. Ian Choudri  
Chief Executive Officer  
California High-Speed Rail Authority  
770 L Street, Suite 620  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Choudri:

I am alarmed about news reports of the California High-Speed Rail Authority's (Authority) recent decision to settle litigation with Dragados Flatiron Joint Venture, the contractor for the 65-mile design-build segment through Fresno, Tulare, and Kings Counties, resulting in a \$537.3 million change order, the largest in the Authority's history.

According to the Authority's Central Valley Status Report, this contractor has previously been issued 597 change orders on this and other segments of the project, with total modifications exceeding \$2.3 billion as of November 2025. This pattern of repeated contract amendments raises serious concern about the Authority's fiscal discipline and project management practices, including the use of federal taxpayer funds that have contributed to this significantly delayed and over-budget project.

To ensure accountability for taxpayers, I respectfully request a detailed response addressing the following questions:

- Were any federal funds included, directly or indirectly, in this change order with Dragados Flatiron Joint Venture, and if so, what portion of the \$537.3 million do federal funds comprise?
- What steps did the Authority take to notify or obtain guidance from federal oversight agencies (including the Federal Railroad Administration) prior to approving this settlement?
- Have any federal funds been used to cover the cost of change orders, and if so, how many change orders involved federal funding, and what total additional costs were covered with federal funds?
- Were any federal compliance reviews or audits conducted to evaluate the necessity or propriety of this settlement? If so, please describe each such review or audit.
- What internal controls or reforms specific to federally funded projects have been implemented to prevent settlements of this magnitude in the future?

Please send a written response to these questions no later than March 13, 2026. Taxpayers deserve full transparency and accountability regarding how their funds are being managed and why repeated contract modifications continue to escalate costs on this project.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vince Fong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

VINCE FONG  
Member of Congress