Cooperation agreement between the California Government and the French Ministry for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Land Planning

The High-Speed Rail Authority of the Government of California of the United States of America (hereinafter referred to as the CHSRA),
Represented by its elected **Chairman,**
The Honorable Judge Quentin KOPP

and

The Ministry for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Land Planning (Ministère de l'Écologie, de l'Énergie, du Développement Durable et de l'Aménagement du Territoire, hereinafter referred to as MEEDDAT),
Represented by the **Ambassador of France to the United States of America,**
H.E. Pierre VIMONT

With awareness of the potential economic, social and environmental benefits to be derived from the development of rail transportation, and taking into account shared aims and policies between France and the State of California in the field of sustainable development and struggle against global warming,

Express here their intention to promote a cooperative relationship as follows:

Purpose and scope of cooperation

The CHSRA and the MEEDDAT intend to establish and develop a long-term cooperation in the field of high-speed rail transportation, with regard to exchanging publicly available information relative to the planning, technical standards, procurement methods, funding options, operation and maintenance of high-speed rail transportation systems, in accordance with their common interests.
As to be determined, this agreement could be extended to issues of common interest related to the planning and development of transportation systems, as soon as these issues derive from the implementation of a new high-speed rail line.

Consistency of the cooperation program

The abovementioned exchange of information includes:

- preparation of and attendance to meetings, technical conferences and any event able to constitute an appropriate framework to reach the abovementioned goals;
- technical visits and related experiences;
- exchange of public administrative and technical documents and studies within the limits hereinafter mentioned.

Cooperation program management

The two parties allow their representatives to yearly define and implement a suited program of cooperation, proportioned to the current stage and progress of the project.

Limitation and confidentiality

Information will be exchanged on a voluntary basis, and where such exchange is neither prohibited by the respective laws and regulations nor against public policy. No right of enforcement is created by this agreement. This agreement does not constitute an agreement for the provision of goods or services in exchange for compensation, nor does it represent any commitment for a future agreement of that sort. This agreement is not an exclusive agreement, and each party is free to enter into similar agreements with other entities with an interest and expertise in high-speed rail transportation.

No information which one party considers being confidential shall be released to the other party unless the other party is given priori notice of the confidentiality of such information and agrees beforehand that it will accept such information subject to the assertion of confidentiality. This provision is intended to give the receiving party an opportunity to determine whether the laws which govern it permit it to maintain the confidentiality of such information.

Signed in two copies in San Francisco, California, on April 7, 2008
Entering into force on this day.

The Honorable Judge Quentin L. KOPP
Chairman of the California High Speed
Rail Authority

His Excellency Pierre VIMONT
Ambassador of France to the
United States of America