
Subject: 2 breakdowns on the San Joaquins in 3 days last week!

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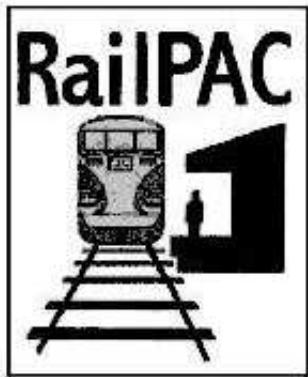
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RailPAC Weekly E-Newsletter for September 9, 2013

Edited by Noel T. Braymer

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Rail Passenger Association of California
www.railpac.org
Traffic? Gas Pains? We need more Trains!



The eastbound Sunset Limited stopping at Ontario on one of the three days it does so back in 2009. With the completion of the Colton Flyover eliminating the biggest bottleneck on this route now is a good time to talk about daily service. The agreement between Amtrak and the UP not to talk about daily Sunset service will be over next year. Photo by Noel T. Braymer

[Judge sets court date for high-speed rail challenge](#)

Fresno Bee- Sep 3, 2013

The California High-Speed Rail Authority and its opponents in Kings County have a court date in November to argue about remedies to violations of Proposition 1A by the state agency's draft business plan.

While the loudest opponents of HSR are ecstatic that this ruling could be a death sentence for this project, the history of this judge and this lawsuit suggests it will be more like a traffic ticket. NB

[Small businesses face confusion from high-speed rail purchase offers](#)

Fresno Bee-Sep 1, 2013

A small 1950s-era burger shack run by Cambodian immigrants has come to symbolize the confusion and consternation faced by business owners whose livelihoods stand in the path of California's proposed high-speed trains.

[Brown signs high-speed rail bill: Legislation protects two-track system on Caltrain right-of-way](#)

San Mateo Daily Journal Sep 7, 2013

The bill was also coauthored by fellow Peninsula legislators Assemblymen Rich Gordon, D-Menlo Park, and Kevin Mullin, D-South San Francisco.

Hill's office said the legislation eliminates local concerns that the California High-Speed Rail Authority may revisit a four-track option. The rail authority had assured Hill the four-track system would not be built but the governor's approval gives local agencies like Caltrain veto-authority if the idea rises again.

[European experts weigh in on Authority's operating cost model](#)

Californians Advocating Responsible Rail Design

By law, the California High Speed Rail Authority is supposed to eventually offer train service without any public operating subsidies. CHSRA's claims that it could do so even on an abbreviated route like Merced to the San Fernando Valley were questioned on both the basis of revenue/ ridership forecasts that seemed high and an operating cost structure that seemed too flexible and too cheap.

In response, the Legislature ordered the Authority to have the UIC, the industry group representing the world's railways, review its operating cost model in time for the January 2, 2014 Business Plan.

The analysis of the CRRRD of this report is that the UIC finds the CHSRA's assumptions of making an operational profit is possible. But that more work is needed to control costs (220 mph hour is more expensive than 186 mph) and for marketing the trains for maximum ridership. NB

[How high-speed rail will bring Hong Kong and China closer together](#)

Global Rail News- Sep 3, 2013

For the government, the project's main benefit is its potential for growth. The XRL will bring Hong Kong closer to China's prosperous economic hubs, namely the future 'megacity' of the Pearl River Delta (PRD). Official figures suggest that, since the 1970s, around 30 per cent of all foreign investment in China has centered around the PRD.

[Levitating train breaks speed record in Japan](#)

Grist-Sep 3, 2013

It sounds like something from a Japanamated techno-fantasy. But a real-life maglev train in Japan just passed its latest real-life test, levitating using magnets as it surpassed speeds of 310 miles per hour — faster than any other train in the world.

[Michigan begins track improvements as part of Accelerated Rail ...](#)

Railway Track & Structures- Sep 4, 2013

MDOT is leading a three-state effort to improve the 300-mile corridor from Pontiac and Detroit across Michigan, through northwest Indiana and to Chicago. The result of these and future infrastructure improvements will allow Amtrak trains in mid-Michigan to operate at speeds up to 110 mph, as they do now for 80 miles in southwestern Michigan and part of Indiana.

[Trio to join talks on future of Amtrak line](#)

KSN-TV- Sep 4, 2013

GARDEN CITY, Kan. (AP) – Community leaders from Kansas are meeting with their counterparts from Colorado and New Mexico next week to ..

[Wichita fails to get grant for Amtrak line](#)

Topeka Capital Journal-Sep 6, 2013

City wanted funds for extension of Heartland Flyer

[Finishing Touches Put on Amtrak Depot](#)

KMOT- Sep 6, 2013

Prior to the flood, the community had worked to remodel and update the building. But, when the waters washed through the city, the Amtrak Depot was severely damaged.