I begin my submission with excerpts from an editorial item in The Irish Independent newspaper August 21, 2015, titled “Drip, drip, drip effect erodes all credibility”. It begins “Successful politicians recognize the line between confidence and arrogance, and right now the Government in on the wrong side of (these are my replacement additions) AB32 and the current politically convoluted High-speed Rail Project originally known as Proposition 1A.”

With that said, the absolute goal of government in the State of California is to focus on the massive damaging drought conditions. However, wasting valuable taxpayer contributions for silly legacy feel good projects baffles our minds. As noted in the opening and closing statements, it is incumbent on government to provide solid effective governance something that been missing especially when plastic bags have more importance than know water crisis. just amazing thought process - NOT!

Further, governments must abandon the lunacy of the continuation of any project or policy (especially the two noted above) that only create serious unintended consequences directly on the backs of over stressed taxpayers due political mismanagement for decades. In the meanwhile, politicians will only find ways to FURTHER abuse taxation and unapproved fees the legislative bodies never received approval from the voters. These are clear examples of serious nature that I and others have specifically regarding these two pieces of legislation.

At the outset, my initial thoughts revolve around a solid quantifiable issue ‘the unintended consequences of this poorly executed legislation’. A review of your PowerPoint hand-out at the August 4, 2015 meeting in Fresno, it became very clear to me that this legislation had two primary are goals that regardless of how one spins it is directly related to uncontrolled growth of state government, while imposing abusive taxation and / or fees on everyone in California without the consent of the voters.  Furthermore, it now very clear that Governor Brown fully intend to generate funding for HIS financially busted high-speed rail (HSR) legacy debacle. Two-years ago, I made an observation when I (we) realized this project was doomed that the only resultant would be a 15’ berm in the San Joaquin Valley making is a new landmark; however, not replacing the Great Wall of China but just a smaller version that one might see if they are orbiting the Earth. A recent example of a seriously mismanaged mega-project is the new 2.5 mile Bay Bridge with all the safety faults created by a politically induced environment. Support pylons for this structure should have been at the highest priority without exception and from current data that was not the case.

This concern is now being seen with the reduced Fresno to Bakersfield HSR alignment where 100,000 of thousands of pages created by the authority and their consultants are now in the process of revision by the prime contractor. Moreover, the residents of the San Joaquin Valley have been subject to aggressive and abusive tactics regarding land acquisition, which now may become null and void.

I bring forth the above because of one overriding concern and the two HSR construction bids awarded are for reduced distances in the respective alignments. Reason, lack of funding, hence the need to obtain funding from any source.

I was in the audience and witnessed speakers on the dais trip all over themselves stating the good they have done to date.  We all heard monies were spent with significant results they stated; however, from my detailed notes taken during this public forum show no one ever provide solid validated results.  Additionally, I have no clue why the ARB would even fund anything involving HSR when is well documented that HSR WILL BE A NET POLLUTER FOR THE NEXT 30++ YEARS.  In my judgement, this is just another convoluted political machinated way of getting monies to the Governor's broken legacy project. I and others are firmly convinced this not an actual part of this legislations intent.

Nevertheless, from the Webinar in July and the August public forum, they were much appreciated; nevertheless, my (and others) entire take away that this is just another piece of unnecessary legislation, as noted previously, to only expand government and dole more monies to questionable agencies or departments with minimal oversight that seems to require, limited non-descript reporting. This my clear take away from both sessions.

Some of my other solid take-a-ways are:

Extremely questionable standards with the only to increase state employment for the unions with zero compliance to the actual legislation.

Furthermore, you are placing unacceptable burdens not only on the other 49 states and all nations doing business with California.  That concept will surely create a net business decrease. The over ridding business communities displeasure with California is the state is extremely aggressive thus creating a very unfriendly business environment.   I could site a perfect example; however, my previous employment standards require my compliance to confidential contract requirements.

I along with others in attendance thought and agreed there is a serious lack of confidence in effective management of this convoluted governance of this funding investment program.

Once again, we have another government agency over using buzz words or better named cliché statements with little or no quantifiable value leaving one to question the strengths of the accountability and the oversight certainly codify this comment.

Another key overlooked area is Environmental Justice (EJ) and like HSR who stated they were in total compliance with their Environmental Impact Reports only to perform an emergency action at their August 2012 board meeting because it was missing; however, they stated they were in compliance but that could not be proven.  I have not had the time to review all documentation; therefore, I make this comment to address this is a very important aspect and typically EJ only gets attention when there is a complaint. In mine mind not so, it is the benchmark for all agency activities without reservation.

One the most igneous problems this legislation it seems to be another conduit for existing agencies to increase their funding  base thus increasing staff most cases under union contracts.  In other words, California's almost 600 existing departments / agencies need to be evaluated for duplication and really actual need are now required because we the taxpayers demand it and it is a solid requirement of superior governance that is sorely missing in Sacramento. Failure to adjust only ensures the demise of this state.

A comment from someone who viewed this public forum - they seemed to use a lot of buzz words or phrases.

This entire process seems too geared to the Agenda 21 program that was never approved by the voters California nor by the voters of The United States of America.  That in its self appears to demonstrate that government running amuck without adherence to the laws of the land or individual states.

It seems to me that the major air quality issues in the San Joaquin Valley are significantly a creation from the Bay area. I firmly believe that penalties belong in the Bay area instead of here; nevertheless, I and others are firmly convinced the "Greenhouse Gas debacle" is just a methodology to scam the public into more silly and abusive controls along with unapproved taxation or fees.

The one key factor that always over looked by these zealots is Mother Nature rules and conditions such the current drought is not due to greenhouse gases, it is due to extremely poor lack of legislative and political mismanagement.  Failure to react to cyclical events, which is a requirement of superior governance, has resulted in absolutely draconian measures that should have been enacted regardless if it as the result of legislative or political machinations. The people’s requirements demand effective and reactive solutions then not later when the disaster is just that!  A vote from the voters would have overridden those objections.

Another statement from The Irish Times –

“It is remarkable that the Government should have come to such a pass through its rigidity of thought.” Nothing in the world is as flexible and yielding solid governance, which is the missing component in Sacramento.

In closing:

Quote from President Thomas Jefferson

“My reading of history convinces me that most bad government results from too much government.”