

Fresno 'dam train' billboard: Water before high-speed rail

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A controversial billboard is grabbing attention on Highway 99 in Fresno.

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FRESNO, Calif. (KFSN) --



A controversial billboard is grabbing attention on Highway 99 in Northwest Fresno. The billboard went up on Monday, saying "dam" and "train" in large words. It's posted for drivers in the northbound lanes of Highway 99 to see, just south of Herndon Avenue.

Fresno City Councilman Steve Brandau is behind it. He says he's calling on Gov. Jerry Brown to pay more attention to the state's water needs over the high-speed rail. There's also a website where he's asking people to sign a petition in favor of expediting a dam at Temperance Flat -- as promised in a recently passed water bond measure.

"We don't have a shortage of trains; we have a shortage of water. I wanted to illustrate that by creating a thumbs up for the dam and a thumbs down for the train," said Brandau.

The governor's office responded to the billboard with the following statement:

This is the definition of a false choice. California is a growing state that must fix its aging transportation and water infrastructure -- our economic vitality depends on it. That's why taxpayers voted for ballot measures to build high speed rail and new water storage and why both are a priority.

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