

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# CITY OF PALMDALE

## *NEWS RELEASE*

CONTACT: John Mlynar

PHONE: 661/267-5115

DATE: November 26, 2014

### Palmdale Mayor Jim Ledford to Speak at US High Speed Rail Conference

PALMDALE – Palmdale Mayor Jim Ledford will be a featured speaker at the US High Speed Rail Association’s (USHSR) West Coast Rail Conference, coming to Los Angeles December 2 through 4.

Ledford will speak on Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 3 pm on the topic of “California & Southwest High Speed Rail Project Update” discussing the state’s high speed rail system, construction schedule, and the many benefits it will deliver to the people of California and surrounding states. Joining Ledford on this topic will be Don Sepulveda of the LA MTA and Alex Metcalf of Transportation, Economic and Management Systems. Along with Ledford,

The conference will bring together leading authorities and experts on high speed rail and discussed California’s statewide rail modernization, the vision of high speed rail in America, the positive economic impacts of high speed rail, transit orientated development and station architecture, private investment and financing high speed rail and the California High Speed Rail project.

Other headline topics will include, “Bringing High Speed Rail to America,” “A New Vision for Transportation in America,” “High Speed Rail Around the World,” and “Private Investment and Financing High Speed Rail.”

“It is an honor to be a part of this forward-thinking conference that has a comprehensive transportation vision for the future both here in California and across the nation,” Ledford said. “The California High Speed Rail project, and this new national electric transportation project, will help revive our economy and manufacturing sector by

creating millions of new jobs. It will also be a catalyst for the next real estate boom, while significantly reducing our dependence on oil, shrinking our national carbon footprint, reducing congestion, and creating efficient mobility that's safe and affordable for its passengers.”

Visit [www.ushsr.com/events/losangeles2014.html](http://www.ushsr.com/events/losangeles2014.html) for more information on the conference.

### **About the USHSR**

USHSR is the only organization in America focusing entirely on advancing a state-of-the-art national high speed rail network across the country. It is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)(6) trade association chartered to organize and mobilize the industry with a shared vision for a 21<sup>st</sup> century, 17,000 mile national high speed rail system built in phases for completion by 2030.

### **Vision**

The USHSR vision includes a national HSR Express system connecting cities and states into an integrated system, laid out in phases with an aggressive schedule for full system build out. The vision sets high standards for interoperable, state-of-the-art dedicated track, advanced control systems, elegant multi-modal train stations, and top-of-the-line 220 mph trains connecting major cities together. Our plan calls for a support network of 110 mph trains connecting smaller cities and towns together with the high speed system.