

## Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613  
 For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

**SCH # 2009022083**

**Project Title:** California High-Speed Rail Project: San Jose to Merced Project Section

Lead Agency: California High-Speed Rail Authority Contact Person: Serge Stanich  
 Mailing Address: 770 L Street, Suite 620 MS-1 Phone: (916) 324-1541  
 City: Sacramento Zip: 95814 County: Sacramento

**Project Location:** County: Santa Clara, San Benito and Merced City/Nearest Community: Santa Clara, San Jose, Morgan Hill, Gilroy and Los Banos  
 Cross Streets: Please see attached page Zip Code: Various

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): \_\_\_\_\_ ° \_\_\_\_\_ ' \_\_\_\_\_ " N / \_\_\_\_\_ ° \_\_\_\_\_ ' \_\_\_\_\_ " W Total Acres: Approx. 90 miles

Assessor's Parcel No.: Various Section: Various Twp.: Various Range: Various Base: \_\_\_\_\_

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: 33, 85, 87, 89, 152, 165, US 101, I-5, I-280, I-880 Waterways: Multiple  
 Airports: SJC, South County Airport, Frazier Lake, Los Banos Railways: Caltrain, UPRR Schools: Multiple

**Document Type:**

CEQA:  NOP  Draft EIR NEPA:  NOI Other:  Joint Document  
 Early Cons  Supplement/Subsequent EIR  EA  Final Document  
 Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.) \_\_\_\_\_  Draft EIS  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mit Neg Dec Other: \_\_\_\_\_  FONSI \_\_\_\_\_

**Local Action Type:**

General Plan Update  Specific Plan  Rezone  Annexation  
 General Plan Amendment  Master Plan  Prezone  Redevelopment  
 General Plan Element  Planned Unit Development  Use Permit  Coastal Permit  
 Community Plan  Site Plan  Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)  Other: Public Works

**Development Type:**

Residential: Units \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_  Transportation: Type Rail (High Speed Train)  
 Office: Sq.ft. \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Employees \_\_\_\_\_  Mining: Mineral \_\_\_\_\_  
 Commercial: Sq.ft. \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Employees \_\_\_\_\_  Power: Type \_\_\_\_\_ MW \_\_\_\_\_  
 Industrial: Sq.ft. \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Employees \_\_\_\_\_  Waste Treatment: Type \_\_\_\_\_ MGD \_\_\_\_\_  
 Educational: \_\_\_\_\_  Hazardous Waste: Type \_\_\_\_\_  
 Recreational: \_\_\_\_\_  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Water Facilities: Type \_\_\_\_\_ MGD \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Issues Discussed in Document:**

Aesthetic/Visual  Fiscal  Recreation/Parks  Vegetation  
 Agricultural Land  Flood Plain/Flooding  Schools/Universities  Water Quality  
 Air Quality  Forest Land/Fire Hazard  Septic Systems  Water Supply/Groundwater  
 Archeological/Historical  Geologic/Seismic  Sewer Capacity  Wetland/Riparian  
 Biological Resources  Minerals  Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading  Growth Inducement  
 Coastal Zone  Noise  Solid Waste  Land Use  
 Drainage/Absorption  Population/Housing Balance  Toxic/Hazardous  Cumulative Effects  
 Economic/Jobs  Public Services/Facilities  Traffic/Circulation  Other: EMF/EMI, Vibration, Safety & Security

**Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:**

Mix of urbanized uses (residential/commercial/industrial), transportation uses, and rural uses (agriculture, open space)

**Project Description:** *(please use a separate page if necessary)*

Please see attached page

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

## Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X".  
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation
<input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction
<input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # <u>4,10</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # <u>2,3,5</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy	<input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board	<input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
<input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # <u>3,4</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Please see attached page.</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission	

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### Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date Not applicable Ending Date Not applicable

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### Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: <u>ICF</u>	Applicant: <u>California High Speed Rail Authority</u>
Address: <u>201 Mission Street, Suite 1500</u>	Address: <u>770 L Street, Suite 620 MS-1</u>
City/State/Zip: <u>San Francisco, CA 94105</u>	City/State/Zip: <u>Sacramento / CA / 95814</u>
Contact: <u>Rich Walter</u>	Phone: <u>916-324-1541</u>
Phone: <u>510-290-1860 (cell)</u>	

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Signature of Lead Agency Representative: Serge M. Stanich

Digitally signed by Serge M. Stanich  
Date: 2022.01.25 10:16:37 -08'00'

Date: 1/25/2022

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

# Notice of Completion and Environmental Document Transmittal—Attachment

## Project Title

California High-Speed Rail Project: San Jose to Merced Project Section

## Project Location, Cross Streets

The proposed San Jose to Merced Project Section (Project Section) is located in Santa Clara, San Benito, and Merced Counties near the cities of Santa Clara, San Jose, Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and Los Banos. The project extends from Scott Boulevard in Santa Clara County (latitude/longitude N 37°21'48.996" / W 121°57'36") to Carlucci Road in Merced County (latitude/longitude N 37°5'28.716" / W 120°40'15.6"). The nearest major state highways are State Route (SR) 33, SR 85, SR 87, SR 89, U.S. Highway 101, SR 152, SR 165, Interstate (I-) 5, I-280, and I-880.

## Project Description

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) certified a Statewide Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (Tier 1) in November 2005 as the first phase of a tiered environmental review process for the proposed California High-Speed Rail (HSR) System planned to provide a reliable, high-speed, electric-powered rail system that links the major metropolitan areas of the state and that delivers predictable and consistent travel times. A further objective is to provide an interface with commercial airports, mass transit, and the highway network and to relieve capacity constraints of the existing transportation system as increases in intercity travel demand in California occur, in a manner sensitive to and protective of California's unique natural resources. A second program-level (Tier 1) EIR/EIS was completed in 2008 focusing on the connection between the Bay Area and Central Valley; the Authority revised this document under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and completed it in 2012. Based on the Program EIR/EISs, the Authority selected preferred corridors and station locations to advance for further study.

The Authority prepared project-level (Tier 2) environmental documents that further examine the Project Section. The approximately 145-mile-long Project Section—as part of the larger, 800-mile California HSR System planned throughout California—would provide HSR service between San Jose Diridon Station in downtown San Jose and a station in downtown Merced, with a Gilroy station either in downtown Gilroy or east of Gilroy. The Project Section would allow trains in the San Francisco Bay Area to transition smoothly via the Central Valley Wye to and from the Central Valley portion of the HSR system running north to Merced and south to Fresno and Southern California. The Project Section comprises three project extents:

- From Scott Boulevard in Santa Clara to Carlucci Road in Merced County, at the western terminus of the Central Valley Wye (the project covered in the EIR/EIS that is the subject of this Notice of Completion)
- The Central Valley Wye, beginning at Carlucci Road in Merced County, connecting the east–west portion of HSR from the Bay Area to the Central Valley with the north–south portion from Merced to Fresno
- The northernmost portion of the Merced to Fresno Project Section, from the northern limit of the Central Valley Wye (Ranch Road) to the Merced Station

The extent of the Project Section between Carlucci Road and Merced has been analyzed in the *Merced to Fresno Section Final EIR/EIS* and the *Merced to Fresno Section: Central Valley Wye Final Supplemental EIR/EIS*. The Authority published a Draft EIR/EIS, in April 2020, at the project level (Tier 2) to examine the portion of the Project Section from Scott Boulevard north of San Jose Diridon Station to Carlucci Road in Merced County. This is referred to as the San Jose to Central Valley Wye Project Extent (project or project extent). The project extent is located in Santa Clara, San Benito, and Merced Counties in or near the cities of Santa Clara, San Jose, Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and Los Banos.

The approximately 90-mile project extent is comprised of mostly dedicated HSR system infrastructure, HSR station locations at San Jose Diridon and Gilroy, a maintenance of way facility (MOWF) either south or southeast of Gilroy, and a maintenance of way siding (MOWS) west of Turner Island Road in the Central Valley. HSR stations at San Jose Diridon and Gilroy provide links with regional and local mass transit services as well as connectivity to the Santa Clara County and Central Valley highway network.

The Draft EIR/EIS evaluated the impacts and benefits of a No Project Alternative and four end-to-end project alternatives (Alternatives 1 to 4), including stations. The Authority’s Preferred Alternative, which also serves as the proposed project for CEQA, is Alternative 4, which includes the San Jose Diridon Station as modified by the Diridon design variant, existing rail corridor upgrades between San Jose and Gilroy, a downtown Gilroy station, the South Gilroy maintenance-of-way facility, dedicated high-speed rail infrastructure through the Pacheco Pass as modified by the tunnel design variant, and dedicated high-speed rail infrastructure continuing across the San Joaquin Valley to connect to the Central Valley Wye.

Following the Authority’s publication of the Draft EIR/EIS in April 2020, the Authority issued a limited revision to the published Draft EIR/EIS, entitled *San Jose to Merced Project Section: Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Biological Resources Analysis* (Revised/Supplemental Draft EIR/EIS). Pursuant to Section 15088.5(f)(2) of the CEQA Guidelines, this document was limited to the portions of the previously published Draft EIR/EIS that required revision. The Revised/Supplemental Draft EIR/EIS presented new biological resources analysis that was not included in the Draft EIR/EIS.

The Authority is now issuing the Final EIR/EIS in February 2022. The Authority’s Board of Directors will consider whether to certify the Final EIR/EIS and approve the Preferred Alternative (Alternative 4 as described above), pursuant to CEQA. The Authority’s Board of Directors, in the Authority’s role as NEPA lead agency, will also consider whether to direct the Authority’s Chief Executive Officer to issue a Record of Decision for the San Jose to Merced Project Section selecting the Preferred Alternative (Alternative 4 as described above).

A vertical line in the margin of the Final EIR/EIS indicates a substantive change in the text since publication of the Draft EIR/EIS; minor editorial changes and clarifications are not identified. Changes in the Final EIR/EIS are primarily related to updating information and addressing comments received during the public comment period on the Draft EIR/EIS and the Revised/Supplemental Draft EIR/EIS.

**Reviewing Agencies Checklist—Other**

California Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency, Secretary, Sacramento, CA
California Environmental Protection Agency, Secretary for Environmental Protection, Sacramento, CA
California Geological Survey
California Health and Human Services Agency
California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
California State Transportation Agency, Secretary, Sacramento, CA
California Transportation Commission, Executive Director, Sacramento, CA
California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services, Mather, CA