

VALLEY LINK RAIL PROJECT
NOTICE OF PREPARATION
SUBSEQUENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

The Tri-Valley – San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority (Authority) as Lead Agency, is issuing this Notice of Preparation (NOP) to advise other agencies and the public that it will be preparing a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the proposed Valley Link Rail Project, consistent with requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The purpose of the SEIR is to analyze the potential environmental effects associated with revisions to the previously analyzed improvements included in the Valley Link Rail Project Final EIR approved by the Authority on May 12, 2021, as described below. Pursuant to Section 15162 of the CEQA Guidelines, the Authority has determined that an SEIR is the appropriate level of documentation necessary to evaluate potential impacts associated with the revised project. The purpose of this NOP is to request input on the scope and content of the environmental analysis to be performed in the SEIR.

2021 CEQA Certified Project

A Final EIR for the Valley Link Project was published in April 2021 and a staff-recommended CEQA Certified Alternative was adopted by the Authority Board on May 12, 2021. The CEQA Certified Alternative included the construction of a 42-mile, 7-station passenger rail service that would link the Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station and the proposed Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) North Lathrop Station included in the ACE Extension Lathrop to Ceres/Merced Project. The CEQA Certified Alternative also included two initial operating segments (IOS). The IOS would establish initial service from the Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station to either the Southfront Road Station Alternative or the Mountain House Station Alternative. The Mountain House Station Alternative IOS is the basis of the Proposed Project to be evaluated in the SEIR.

Proposed Project and Location

As shown in the Project Location Map, the Proposed Project would establish a new passenger rail service along a 26-mile corridor between the existing Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station in Alameda County and the proposed Mountain House Community Station with all-day bi-directional service at frequent intervals throughout the day using zero-emission multiple-unit vehicles. The alignment would be constructed within a combination of an existing freeway median, an existing transportation corridor owned by Alameda County, and new right-of-way (currently characterized by undeveloped grasslands) to be acquired for the Project. The Proposed Project includes four new stations as well as an Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) and an Operations Support Site in areas at the east end of the alignment.

The proposed changes to the 2021 CEQA Certified Project include relocation of the Dublin/Pleasanton Station platform to the south side of I-580, track realignment in the Altamont Pass, and a new Mountain House Community Station and OMF. The Mountain House Community Station would be constructed north of I-205 on a site west of Mountain House Parkway near the I-205/Mountain House Parkway interchange. The new OMF would be constructed on a site east of Mountain House Parkway and north of I-205.

Project Location Map



Potential Environmental Impacts

It has been initially determined that the following topics will be included for evaluation in the SEIR: Aesthetics, Agricultural Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Noise and Vibration, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Safety and Security, Transportation and Traffic, and Utilities and Service Systems. The SEIR will consider both temporary, construction-period, and permanent impacts. The SEIR will also include a cumulative impact analysis of the impacts of the Proposed Project in combination with other planned railway projects, transportation improvements, and land use plans and projects in the various cities along the project corridor.

The Authority is seeking comments from agencies, stakeholders, and the public regarding the environmental effects to be analyzed in the SEIR.

Scoping Meetings

Virtual public scoping meetings will be held for the project on the following dates:

- Monday, December 5, 2022 from 6:30 PM until 8:00 PM
- Tuesday, December 6, 2022 from 11:30 AM until 1:00 PM

The virtual scoping meetings will provide an informal opportunity for attendees to ask questions about the Proposed Project. However, official scoping comments must be submitted in writing by mail, email, or through the online comment submission form on the project website. Please visit www.getvalleylinked.com to learn how to join the virtual meetings and to access additional project information. If you will require language assistance services at these meetings, please call (925) 667-4013, 48 hours prior to the date and time of the meetings.

Written responses and comments on the scope of the Valley Link Rail Project will be accepted until 5:00 PM on December 19, 2022. Please send written comments to:

Tri-Valley – San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority
2600 Kitty Hawk Road, Suite 103
Livermore, CA 94551

Your comments may also be sent by email to info@valleylinkrail.com (please include “Valley Link Project” in the subject heading), or through the online comment submission form provided on the project website: www.getvalleylinked.com.

For Further Information

Visit our project website at www.getvalleylinked.com or contact us by email at info@valleylinkrail.com and include “Valley Link Project” in the subject heading. Language assistance will be provided upon request.

Se proporcionará asistencia con el idioma si se solicita llamando al (925) 667-4013.

联系 (925) 667-4013 可应要求提供语言帮助。

-سيتم توفير المساعدة اللغوية عند الطلب عن طريق الاتصال 925-667-4013.

Hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ sẽ được cung cấp theo yêu cầu bằng cách liên hệ (925) 667-4013.

언어 지원은 (925) 667-4013으로 연락하여 요청 시 제공될 것입니다.

Ang tulong sa wika ay ibibigay kapag hiniling sa pamamagitan ng pakikipag-ugnayan sa (925) 667-4013.