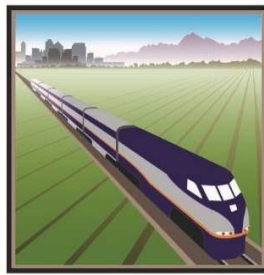


Supervisor **Vito Chiesa**, Chair, Stanislaus County
Councilmember **Patrick Hume**, Vice-Chair, City of Elk Grove
Supervisor **Scott Haggerty**, Vice-Chair, Alameda County
Councilmember **Kevin Romick**, City of Oakley
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Supervisor **Doug Verboon**, Kings County
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San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority

Alternate **Richard O'Brien**, City of Riverbank
Alternate **Don Nottoli**, Sacramento County

Alternate **David Hudson**, City of San Ramon
Alternate **Daron McDaniel**, Merced County
Alternate **Doug Kuehne**, City of Lodi
Alternate **Martin Devine**, City of Hanford
Alternate **Andrew Medellin**, City of Madera
Alternate **Rey Leon**, City of Huron
Alternate **Bob Link**, City of Visalia

Date: October 14, 2020

To: Public Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

From: San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority

Subject: Notice of Public Review and Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

Project Title: Madera Station Relocation Project

Pursuant to the *State of California Public Resources Code* and the *Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act*, as most recently amended, this notice is issued to advise that the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJPA) has prepared a Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) to evaluate the environmental effects of the Madera Station Relocation Project (Project). This Initial Study was completed in accordance with SJPA's Guidelines for Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The document relies on site-specific analysis prepared to address in detail the environmental impacts associated with the Project. On the basis of the Initial Study, SJPA staff has concluded that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment with the implementation of best management practices and mitigation measures. Consequently, a Mitigated Negative Declaration is proposed.

Project Location: The proposed location for the Project generally lies southeast of the City of Madera. The main Project Footprint is one-mile northeast of the Madera Community College and approximately one mile north of Avenue 12. The station facilities are located within a wedge-shaped site defined by the existing BNSF Stockton Subdivision Corridor (BNSF Corridor) to the east and the California High-Speed Rail (CAHSR) Project corridor to the west and is located on land owned by the California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA). The proposed access road connecting the station facilities to Avenue 12 would generally run along the CAHSR Project corridor.

Project Description: The Project consists of various project elements that can be separated into two phases, based on their purpose and timing of construction and implementation. The first phase, or "Phase 1 – San Joaquin Relocated Station" (Phase 1), consists of elements related to the Relocated Madera San Joaquin Station (Relocated Station) from Madera Acres to the location described in the vicinity of Avenue 12. The existing Madera San Joaquin Station would no longer be used for San Joaquin operations following commencement of San Joaquin service at the Relocated Station. Phase 1 would build out a station platform that is approximately 600 feet. New trackwork that would require build out would tie-in to the existing BNSF rail and would require turnout tracks and have a length of 2,330 feet. A four-bay bus depot and 98-space surface parking lot would be constructed. A new two-lane access road would be constructed to provide access to the Relocation Station facilities and would run adjacent to the CAHSR Project right-of-way.

MEMBER AGENCIES

Alameda County - Contra Costa County Transportation Authority - Fresno Council of Governments - Kings County Association of Governments - Madera County Transportation Commission
Merced County Association of Governments - Sacramento Regional Transit - San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission - Stanislaus Council of Governments - Tulare County Association of Governments

The second phase of the Project, or “Phase 2 – HSR Interim Operating Segment Station” (Phase 2), consists of high-speed rail improvements at the Relocated Station to allow for future HSR service along California’s future Merced to Bakersfield High-Speed Rail Interim Operating Segment, to access the Relocated Station. HSR services on the Interim Operating Segment are anticipated to be operated by the SJJPA. Phase 2 would build out a new HSR station platform that would be approximately 1,000 feet in length. To accommodate the platform’s access, a new station siding track would be constructed in addition to new crossover tracks; the accumulative length of new track from Phase 2 would amount to approximately 17,300 feet. A new rail bridge with CIDH piles and a concrete slab would be constructed over Cottonwood Creek and span approximately 24 feet in width and 250 feet in length. The parking lot from Phase 1 would be expanded by 182 additional spaces for a total of 280 parking spaces in Phase 2. The Bus Depot would also be expanded with four additional bus bays. The access road from Phase 1 would be reconfigured and relocated to tie-in to the proposed elevated roadway of the Avenue 12 grade separation. Some portions of the roadway would be widened from two-lanes to a four-lane road. A building or buildings (approximately one story or 12 feet tall) would be constructed in close proximity to the east of the HSR platform to provide space for station staffing support facilities, restrooms and cleaning supplies/equipment for station maintenance. Lighting posts and signage would be installed under both phases.

Public Review Period: A 30-day public review period will begin on October 14, 2020. Comments must be submitted via email (MaderaStationComments@sjjpa.com) or on the SJJPA’s Project webpage (<https://sjjpa.com/madera-station-relocation-project>) by no later than 5:00 pm on November 16, 2020. Comments can also be mailed to Dan Leavitt, Manager of Regional Initiatives, San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority, 949 East Channel Street, Stockton, CA 95202. The Draft IS/MND and reference documents are also available for review on the Project webpage.

Public Meeting: The SJJPA will hold two public meetings to inform interested parties of the conclusions of the Draft IS/MND. The two meetings are scheduled for Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 10:30 am and at 6 pm, and both meetings will have the same content. Notice of the date and time of the public meetings will be detailed on the Project webpage (see link above under Public Review Period). Due to current COVID-19 social distancing requirements and in the interest of public health, the SJJPA will hold the public meeting via online webinars.

For additional information regarding this Project, please contact:

Dan Leavitt

Manager of Regional Initiatives

San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority

E-mail: dan@sjjpa.com

Phone: (209) 944-6266