NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Elk Grove Station Project

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: December 3, 2021 – January 18, 2022

DATE: December 3, 2021
TO: Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, and Other Interested Parties
FROM: San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission
SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Elk Grove Station Project (SCH #2021080045)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRRC), acting as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Elk Grove Station Project (proposed Project).

A. Elk Grove Station Location and Limits

The Project study area is located in the City of Elk Grove, Sacramento County, California and extends along an alignment from just north of Elk Grove Boulevard at the southern limit and Sims Road at the northern limit. The proposed Project would be located on portions of 7 parcels: Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 119-1540-021 and 119-0120-066 (proposed surface parking lot site); APN 119-1540-010 (proposed pedestrian overcrossing site); and APNs 119-0120-006, 119-0120-008, 119-0120-014, and 132-0020-002 (proposed platform, rail siding, and proposed UPRR mainline track site). Through the Project area, the existing UPRR corridor runs generally north-south. The Project study area is approximately 2.25 miles along the UPRR corridor, and the GPS coordinates of the northern and southern termini are latitude 38° 26' 16.0476" N and longitude 121° 27' 28.7712" W to latitude 38° 24' 17.6724" N and longitude 121° 27' 14.6916" W.

B. Description of the Elk Grove Station Project

The proposed Project would require the construction of up to a 10,000-foot-long siding track parallel to the existing UPRR mainline track to accommodate the operational requirements UPRR needs to allow passenger service to run in this corridor and allow trains to pass each other. The proposed siding track, which would be constructed entirely within the UPRR right-of-way, would begin just north of Elk Grove Boulevard and extend to just south of Big Horn Boulevard. The Project also involves the removal and replacement of approximately 3,900 feet of existing UPRR mainline track between Laguna Boulevard and Big Horn Boulevard to accommodate construction of the station center loading platform between the UPRR mainline track and rail siding track.

The primary objectives of the Project are to expand passenger rail service to the Elk Grove community; increase passenger rail ridership; provide transit connections; alleviate traffic congestion; improve regional air quality; reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; and support local and regional land use development plans and policies.

The proposed station platform would be between the replaced mainline track and the new siding track, providing center passenger loading to trains on either track, and would be located within UPRR right-of-way along the existing UPRR Sacramento Subdivision, which is the rail line that extends from Marysville in the north and Stockton in the south. Access to the station platform from the adjacent surface parking lot to the west would be provided by a pedestrian overcrossing that would be elevated over the replaced mainline track, an existing drainage channel, and existing maintenance road that are on the west side of the new platform. Access to the parking lot on the west side of the UPRR corridor would be via a new driveway along Dwight Road. The station platform, pedestrian overcrossing, and surface parking lot would be designed in compliance with ADA regulations and applicable federal transportation standards. The proposed station platform would be approximately 30 feet wide, 955 feet in length with the top surface of the platform 10 inches above the rail tracks. The station platform would be unattended (i.e., there would be a lack of human presence) and would include passenger amenities, such as passenger shelters, benches, lighting, security cameras, signage, public address systems, passenger information display systems, ticketing machines, bicycle storage facilities, landscaping, and emergency call boxes. The proposed station site would also include construction of a surface parking lot providing 227 parking spaces and 3 bus bays. Parking lot access would be via a new driveway along Dwight Road.

The Project would include a pedestrian overcrossing that would provide access from the surface parking lot on the west side of the UPRR right-of-way to the passenger platform. The pedestrian overcrossing would maintain clearance for vehicles using the maintenance road to access the drainage channel and existing utilities adjacent to the UPRR corridor. The pedestrian overcrossing would be constructed out of steel, concrete, or a combination of both materials with a minimum 10-foot-high railing on both sides of the overcrossing. The top of the overcrossing could be several feet higher than the railing depending on the final architectural treatments selected for the overcrossing and station.

The Project would install concrete crash barriers around the base of the bridge columns next to the proposed rail tracks at Laguna Boulevard. Existing culverts within UPRR right-of-way along the limits of the proposed rail siding would be extended, where needed, to accommodate the planned improvements. Existing drainage facilities in the surface parking lot area would be modified, where needed, to accommodate surface improvements that could include raised curb, curb and gutter, sidewalks, medians, and a new driveway connecting to Dwight Road. Existing drainage facilities along Dwight Road would be modified, where needed, to accommodate the new driveway at the entrance to the surface parking lot.

The proposed Project would include full right-of-way acquisition of APN 119-1540-021 for development of the proposed surface parking lot. Partial acquisition may be required on APN 119-0120-066 for the southern portion of the proposed station parking lot, and partial acquisition

and/or an easement may be required on 119-1540-010 for the proposed pedestrian overcrossing. A detailed Project Description is presented in Section 3.0 of the EIR.

C. Potential Environmental Impacts

The Elk Grove Station Project would result in overall regional benefits in terms of providing passenger rail connectivity to the Elk Grove community, reducing traffic congestion, improving regional air quality, and reducing GHG emissions.

The Elk Grove Station Project would result in significant and unavoidable impacts (after mitigation) related to construction noise.

The Elk Grove Station Project would not result in cumulatively considerable and unavoidable impacts.

The Elk Grove Station Project would result in less than significant impacts with mitigation on the following resource areas: aesthetics, air quality, agriculture and forestry resources, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gases, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, operational noise and vibration, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, and wildfire.

Other less than significant impacts are also disclosed in the Draft EIR.

D. Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Report

Copies of the Draft EIR and the documents referenced in the Draft EIR will be available for review at the following location during normal working hours:

- SJRRC offices at 949 East Channel Street, Stockton, CA 95202

Copies of the Draft EIR are also available for review at the following locations.

- Elk Grove Station Project website: https://www.sjrrc.com/elk-grove-station/
- Elk Grove City Hall, Development Services Department, 8401 Laguna Palms Way, Elk Grove, CA 95758
- Franklin Library, 10055 Franklin High Road, Elk Grove, CA 95757
- Elk Grove Library, 8900 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove, CA 95624

E. Open Houses

SJRRC will hold a virtual open house to receive comments on the Draft EIR. The virtual open house will

be held for the Project on January 11, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. and will be accessible at: https://bit.ly/SJRRCElkGrove

The open house will provide an opportunity for SJRRC to provide further details on the Project and to give interested agencies, organizations, and individuals an opportunity to comment on the Draft EIR.

F. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report

A 45-day public and agency review period pursuant to Section 15105 of the State CEQA Guidelines is scheduled from December 3, 2021 to January 18, 2022. Comments may be submitted in writing by regular mail or email or provided during the virtual open house. Please note that you do not need to attend the open house to comment on the Draft EIR. Please send comments submitted in writing to:

Email: elkgrovestation@gmail.com

Mail: San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission
Attn: Valley Rail Sacramento Extension Project
949 East Channel Street
Stockton, CA 95202

Comments on the Draft EIR must be received by the end of the review period, which is **January 18, 2022**, at **5:00 p.m.**