

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****DISTRICT 6 OFFICE**

1352 WEST OLIVE AVENUE  
P.O. BOX 12616  
FRESNO, CA 93778-2616  
PHONE (559) 445-5421  
FAX (559) 488-4088  
TTY 711  
www.dot.ca.gov

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Governor's Office of Planning &amp; Research

**APR 30 2020****STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

Making Conservation  
a California Way of Life

April 30, 2020

Draft Environmental Impact Report  
Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Station  
SCH #2009082062

Mr. Mark McLoughlin  
California High-Speed Rail Authority  
770 L Street, Suite 600  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. McLoughlin:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the California High-Speed Rail (HSR)'s Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Station. The project is in the northwest corner of State Route (SR) 204 and Chester Avenue, south of the Kern River, in the City of Bakersfield.

The HSR line runs alongside SR 204, SR 58, and SR 99 towards Tehachapi and Palmdale. Districts 7 and 9 will send separate comment letters.

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 6 has the following comments:

1. The DEIR will need to identify any site-specific impacts and mitigation measures for impacts that may occur within the State Highway System (SHS).
2. Based on the level of detail in the DEIR, additional environmental studies may be required prior to Caltrans' issuance of an encroachment permit.
3. An encroachment permit must be obtained for all proposed activities for placement of encroachments within, under or over the State highway rights-of-way. Activity and work planned in the State right-of-way shall be performed to State standards and specifications, at no cost to the State. Engineering plans, calculations, specifications, and reports (documents) shall be stamped and signed by a licensed Engineer or Architect. Engineering documents for encroachment permit activity and work in the State right-of-way may be submitted using English Units. The Permit Department and the Environmental Planning Branch will review and approve the activity and work in the State right-of-way before an encroachment permit is issued. The Streets and Highways Code Section 670 provides Caltrans discretionary approval authority for projects

that encroach on the State Highway System. Encroachment permits will be issued in accordance with Streets and Highway Codes, Section 671.5, "Time Limitations." Encroachment permits do not run with the land. A change of ownership requires a new permit application. Only the legal property owner or his/her authorized agent can pursue obtaining an encroachment permit. Please call the **Caltrans Encroachment Permit Office - District 6: 1352 W. Olive, Fresno, CA 93778, at (559) 488-4058.**

4. The F Street Station, as well as the new SR 204 / F Street interchange, will need to be analyzed by the DEIR.
5. A Traffic Study is needed to assess the impacts to SR 58. The study should include 20-year design life scenarios after completed construction of the interchanges.
6. The Traffic Study should also include recommendations on the type of interchanges that will accommodate the 20-year design life.
7. Starting on Page 3.2 to 3.22, a range of Average Annual Daily Trips (AADT) is listed for each SR described to be within the project's vicinity. District 6 requests clarification on where these numbers were derived from the Transportation Concept Reports (TCR), as most of the TCR data are in excess of more than 5 years old.
8. District 6 also requests clarification on whether there was consideration on the impacts from HSR regarding goods movement transportation.
9. It is recommended the High-Speed Rail Authority consider leasing out the tracking rights during off-peak hours for the movement of freight. This would reduce some of the rail-freight congestion over the Tehachapi Mountains. If freight on high speed rail was moved during non-peak hours, the impact of the current saturation rail freight movement over the Tehachapi Mountains would be relieved for possible conventional rail passenger traffic. Also, truck traffic over the Tehachapi Mountains and the Grapevine Passes would be greatly reduced.

If you have any further questions, contact Scott Lau at (559) 445-5763 or [scott.lau@dot.ca.gov](mailto:scott.lau@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY LORENA MENDIBLES**

LORENA MENDIBLES, Chief  
Transportation Planning - South