

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 # 2009082062

Project Title: California High-Speed Rail Project: Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS
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: Kern, Los Angeles City/Nearest Community: Bakersfield, Tehachapi, Mojave, Rosamond, Lancaster, Palmdale
Cross Streets: Please see attached page **Zip Code:** Various
Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): _____ ° _____ ' _____ " N / _____ ° _____ ' _____ " W **Total Acres:** Approx. 80 miles
Assessor's Parcel No.: Various **Section:** Various **Twp.:** Various **Range:** Various **Base:** _____
Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: 58, 14, 204, 178, 184, 202, 138 **Waterways:** Kern River, East Side Canal, Caliente, Clear, Tweedy, Tehachapi, Amargosa, and Oak Creeks, Los Angeles Aqueduct
Airports: Tehachapi Municipal, Pontius Airport, Palmdale Regional **Railways:** UPRR **Schools:** Various

Document Type:

CEQA: NOP Draft EIR Supplement/Subsequent EIR (Prior SCH No.) 2009082062 Mit Neg Dec
 NEPA: NOI EA Draft EIS FONSI
 Other: Joint Document Final Document Other: Revised Draft EIR/ Supplemental Draft EIS

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 _____
 Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Transportation: Type High-Speed Rail
 Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Mining: Mineral _____
 Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Power: Type _____ MW
 Educational: _____ Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD
 Recreational: _____ Hazardous Waste: Type _____
 Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD Other: _____

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: _____

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Various (urban [industrial, commercial, and residential], rural residential, agricultural, and undeveloped).

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction
<input checked="" 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>6,7,9</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # <u>5,6</u>
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # <u>4, 5</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Please see attached page</u>
<input checked="" 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	

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

Starting Date February 26, 2021 Ending Date April 12, 2021

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: _____	Applicant: <u>California High-Speed Rail Authority</u>
Address: _____	Address: <u>770 L Street, Suite 620 MS-1</u>
City/State/Zip: _____	City/State/Zip: <u>Sacramento, CA 95814</u>
Contact: _____	Phone: <u>(916) 324-1541</u>
Phone: _____	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  Date: 2/17/21

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

NOTICE OF COMPLETION AND ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT TRANSMITTAL

Project Title

California High-Speed Rail Project: Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section: Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Project Location, Cross Streets

The northern project terminus is in the City of Bakersfield at the intersection of 34th and L Streets (latitude/longitude: 35°23'25.90"N and 119° 0'58.97"W). The southern project terminus is in the City of Palmdale, terminating adjacently near Spruce Court about 1 mile south of the Palmdale Station (latitude/longitude: 34°33'47.8" N, -118°6'55.4"W).

Project Description

A Statewide Program Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) (Tier 1) was certified 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. The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) has prepared a Draft EIR/EIS that further examines the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section at the project level (Tier 2), within Kern and Los Angeles counties. The project examined is construction and operation of a grade-separated, dedicated double-track, electric powered, passenger, steel-wheel-on-steel-rail, high-speed railroad between Bakersfield and Palmdale, including a station in Bakersfield (approved by the Authority under CEQA in October 2018 and under NEPA in November 2019) and a station in Palmdale.

Consistent with the Tier 1 decisions, the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section is approximately 80 miles in length and traverses valley, mountain, and high desert terrain, as well as urban, rural, and agricultural lands. From the north, this project section begins at the Bakersfield Station and travels south and southeast through the Tehachapi Mountains, then descends into the Antelope Valley, where it terminates at the Palmdale Station.

The Draft EIR/EIS describes a no-project alternative and HSR Build alternatives (including alignment, station, and maintenance facility alternatives) and identifies potential impacts, benefits, and mitigation measures.

Following the Authority's publication of the Draft EIR/EIS in February 2020, the Authority learned that the California Fish and Game Commission advanced the Southern California and Central Coast mountain lion (*Puma concolor*) populations to candidacy for listing under the California Endangered Species Act. The Authority also learned that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined that listing the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) under the Endangered Species Act is warranted, but that listing is precluded by other priorities; therefore, the monarch butterfly is now a candidate species under the Endangered Species Act. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will review the species' status annually until a listing decision is made.

Both CEQA and NEPA provide guidance on the recirculation and supplementation of published environmental documents. Pursuant to pertinent requirements of both laws, the Authority, as lead

CEQA and NEPA agency for the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section, is issuing this Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS limited to the portions of the Draft EIR/EIS to address new information about the mountain lion and the monarch butterfly. New information includes background information, impact analysis, and mitigation measures.

In addition to providing new information about the mountain lion and monarch butterfly, the Authority has identified two new mitigation measures to address impacts to wildlife resulting from lighting during construction and during project operation.

Other information that has not been revised, including the methods for evaluating impacts under NEPA and the methods for determining significance under CEQA, as well as the appendices and technical reports, can be found in the Draft EIR/EIS. The previously published Draft EIR/EIS, including Sections 3.7 and 3.19, is available on the Authority's website (www.hsr.ca.gov). The sections comprising the Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS are:

1. Summary
2. Section 3.7, Biological and Aquatic Resources
3. Section 3.19.5.7, Cumulative Impacts, Biological and Aquatic Resources

The Authority reviewed other sections of the Draft EIR/EIS and found, based on research and a review of the evidence, that no other substantive changes would be required. All revisions made in response to the updated information are being made in this Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS. All other subsections and appendices to Section 3.7 and the technical reports supporting Section 3.7 of the Draft EIR/EIS were not revised.

Section 3.7 includes new mitigation measures. These will be incorporated into the Mitigation Monitoring and Enforcement Plan, to be included as part of the CEQA/NEPA decision documents.

REVIEWING AGENCIES CHECKLIST—OTHER

California Environmental Protection Agency
California Geological Survey
California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
California Health and Human Services Agency
California Natural Resources Agency
California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region
California State Transportation Agency
California Transportation Commission