

Submission 991 (Jean Prijatel, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, April 2, 2021)

Bakersfield - Palmdale - RECORD #991 DETAIL	
Status :	Action Pending
Record Date :	5/5/2021
Affiliation Type :	Federal Agency
Submission Date :	4/2/2021
Interest As :	Federal Agency
Submission Method :	Letter
First Name :	Jean
Last Name :	Prijatel
Professional Title :	Manager, Environmental Review Branch
Business/Organization :	United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX
Address :	75 Hawthorne Street
Apt./Suite No. :	
City :	San Francisco
State :	CA
Zip Code :	94105-3901
Telephone :	(415) 947-3554
Email :	mulvihill.carolyn@epa.gov
Cell Phone :	
Email Subscription :	Yes
Add to Mailing List :	No
EIR/EIS Comment :	No
Attachments :	2021-04-02_EPA comments_SDEIS_HSR_Bakersfield_Palmdale.pdf (247 kb)



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 REGION IX
 75 Hawthorne Street
 San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

April 2, 2021

Serge Stanich
 Director of Environmental Services
 California High-Speed Rail Authority
 770 L Street, Suite 620 MS-1
 Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the California High-Speed Rail: Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section (CEQ# 20210022)

Dear Mr. Stanich:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the California High-Speed Rail: Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section. Our review was completed pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The California High-Speed Rail Authority issued this Supplemental Draft EIS in response to: (1) the California Fish and Game Commission's advancing of the Southern California and Central Coast mountain lion populations to candidacy for listing under the California Endangered Species Act; and (2) the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determination that listing the monarch butterfly under the Endangered Species Act is warranted, making it a candidate species under the ESA. These actions made the mountain lion and the monarch butterfly subject to the definition of special-status species used by the Authority for analysis.

991-1282 | EPA provided comments on the Draft EIS for this project on April 28, 2020. At that time, all of our concerns had been addressed through our ongoing coordination process. We have no additional comments on the Supplemental Draft EIS.

We look forward to continued collaboration with your agency as the project design progresses to identify further avoidance and minimization measures. When the FEIS for this project section is available for review, please provide an electronic copy to Carolyn Mulvihill, the lead reviewer for this project, at the same time the FEIS is formally filed online. Ms. Mulvihill can be reached by phone at 415-947-3554 or by email at mulvihill.carolyn@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

For Jean Prijatel
 Manager, Environmental Review Branch

Response to Submission 991 (Jean Prijatel, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, April 2, 2021)

991-1282

The commenter notes that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had previously submitted comments on the Draft EIR/EIS, and at that time, their concerns had been addressed through previous coordination efforts. The commenter states that they have no comments on the RDEIR/SDEIS, requests a copy of the Final EIS once it is available, and looks forward to collaborating as the project progresses.

The Authority acknowledges that the United States Environmental Protection Agency has no comments on the RDEIR/SDEIS and will continue to coordinate with the private and public sectors during the environmental review process and subsequent phases of the project (right-of-way acquisition, regulatory permitting, final design, etc.). No change has been made to the document in response to this comment.