

16 INTRODUCTION TO VOLUME 4

This introduction explains the organization of Volume 4 and how to locate comment letters and responses to comments included in this Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS). Volume 4 contains public comments and the Authority's responses on the 2020 Draft EIR/EIS and the 2021 Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS for the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section of the California High-Speed Rail (HSR) Project.¹

16.1 Standard Responses to Frequently Raised Comments

As part of the public review process for the 2020 Draft EIR/EIS, the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) received 131 written comment letters and verbal comments at public hearings; these 131 submissions contained 745 individual comments on the Draft EIR/EIS and on the proposed project generally. Additionally, as part of the public review process for the 2021 Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS, the Authority received 122 written comment letters; these 122 submissions contained approximately 310 individual comments on the Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS and on the proposed project generally. Many of the comments on the Draft EIR/EIS and the Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS raise similar issues. The Authority has therefore prepared a chapter of standard responses to address the most frequently raised issues. The standard responses provide a comprehensive response to an issue so that multiple aspects of the issue are addressed in an organized manner in one location. This reduces repetition of responses. When an individual comment raises an issue discussed in a standard response, the response to the individual comment includes a cross-reference to the appropriate standard response. The standard responses are provided in Chapter 17. A translated summary of individual standard responses to comments may be provided upon request, to the extent practicable.

16.2 Individual Responses to Written and Verbal Comments

Following the standard responses, the Authority has provided responses to individual written and verbal comments.

The individual Draft EIR/EIS letters and comments included and addressed are organized and numbered as follows:

- Federal Agencies (Chapter 19)
- State Agencies (Chapter 20)
- State Agencies after April 28, 2020 (Chapter 21)
- Local Agencies (Chapter 22)
- Local Agencies after April 28, 2020 (Chapter 23)
- Tribes (Chapter 24)
- Business and Organization Comments (Chapter 25)
- Individual Comments (Chapter 26)
- Individual Comments after April 28, 2020 (Chapter 27)
- Public Hearing Comments, April 23, 2020 (Chapter 28)
- Public Meeting Comments, March 4, 2020 (Chapter 29)

The individual Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS letters and comments included and addressed are organized and numbered as follows:

- Federal Agencies (Chapter 31)
- State Agencies (Chapter 32)
- Local Agencies (Chapter 33)
- Business and Organization Comments (Chapter 34)
- Individual Comments (Chapter 35)

¹ References to the Council on Environmental Quality National Environmental Policy Act regulations (Code of Federal Regulations Title 40, Parts 1500 to 1508) in the responses to comments are to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations promulgated in 1978 and in effect prior to September 14, 2020.

Each written submission and oral presentation can be found under the appropriate category, by name, or if representing an organization, the name of their organization. If a commenter gave oral or written testimony at the public hearing, they will find their comments, submissions, and responses under “Public Hearing Comments.” Each written comment letter sent to the Authority was assigned a number. Each comment letter and public hearing transcript has brackets in the left-hand margin with identification numbers for each comment. Some letters or oral statements have been treated as a single comment, whereas in other submissions, multiple comments have been identified, which have been numbered and responded to individually. The responses to comment(s) are located at the end of each letter or transcript. Each response is labeled with the letter/testimony identifier and comment number that relates back to that particular bracketed comment.

A number of written comment submissions included lengthy attachments to the comment letters or provided web links to supporting materials. In preparing the Final EIR/EIS and responses to comments, every attachment provided with comment submissions or identified by a web link was reviewed and evaluated. In those cases where attachments included additional comments on the Draft EIR/EIS or the Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS, the comments were delineated and responded to. In those cases where attachments or web links contained information or studies in support of the written comment submission, the material was considered in developing the response. All attachments submitted as part of the comments have been reproduced in this EIR/EIS.

The Authority received eight comment letters after the close of the Draft EIR/EIS comment period and has elected to provide responses to the comments raised in those letters. The letters received after the close of the Draft EIR/EIS comment period are included in Chapters 21, 23, and 27 of Volume 4.

The table of contents, provided below, includes a listing of each comment, its submission number, and the page where it can be found.

16.3 Contents by Order of Appearance in Document

Chapter 17—Standard Responses (English)		Page Number
General		
BP-Response-GENERAL-01	Alternatives	17-1
BP-Response-GENERAL-02	Public Outreach on the Draft EIR/EIS	17-2
BP-Response-GENERAL-03	Applicability of F-B LGA IAMFs/MMs “Stub” on the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section	17-5
BP-Response-GENERAL-04	General Information on the Right-of-Way and Relocation Processes for Residential and Business Displacements	17-6
Biological and Aquatic Resources (BIO)		
BP-Response-BIO-01	Mitigation Measures (Resources, Details and Phasing, Responsibilities, and Future Planning)	17-8
Cultural Resources (CUL)		
BP-Response-CUL-01	Cesar Chavez National Monument	17-11

Chapter 18 provides a placeholder for translated summaries of individual standard responses to comments, which may be provided upon request.

Chapter 19—Federal Agency Comments		
Agency	Submission Number(s)	Page Number(s)
U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Ridgecrest Field Office, Thomas V. Bickauskas, Associate Field Manager	785	19-1
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Regional Office, Justine C. Vaivai, Environmental Protection Specialist	693	19-5
U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Bakersfield Field Office, Christina Castellon, Realty Specialist	806	19-7
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Floodplain Management and Insurance Branch, Gregor Blackburn, Branch Chief	751	19-12
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Connell Dunning, NEPA Reviewer	807	19-16
U.S. Forest Service, Beth Boyst, Pacific Crest Trail Administrator	790	19-18
U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, Janet L. Whitlock, Regional Environmental Officer	722	19-25
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nina Bicknese, Senior Biologist	712	19-35

Chapter 20—State Agency Comments		
Agency	Submission Number(s)	Page Number(s)
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Dean Borg, Director	720	20-1
California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 4, Janice Yoshioka, Staff Services Analyst	781	20-3
California Department of Transportation, District 6, Division of Design, Harpreet Kooner, Program Manager	792	20-49
California Department of Transportation, District 7, Division of Environmental Sciences, Vanessa Velasco, Associate Environmental Planner	724	20-65
California Highway Patrol, Eric Broneer, Captain	814	20-72
California Public Utilities Commission, Matthew Cervantes, Utilities Engineer	723	20-74
California Department of Toxic Substances Control, Gavin McCreary, Project Manager	815	20-77
California Department of Transportation, District 9, Gayle Rosander, External Project Liaison	813	20-82
California Department of Transportation, District 7, Division of Environmental Planning, Ronald Kosinski, Deputy District Director	752	20-84

Chapter 21—State Agency Comments after April 28, 2020		
Agency	Submission Number(s)	Page Number(s)
California Department of Transportation, District 7, Division of Design, Derek Higa, Assistant District Division Chief	828	21-1
California Department of Transportation, District 6, Division of Environmental Planning, Lorena Mendibles, Chief	797	21-6
California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 4, Janice Yoshioka, Staff Services Analyst	840	21-10

Chapter 22—Local Agency Comments		
Agency	Submission Number(s)	Page Number(s)
City of Acton, Acton Town Council	700	22-1
City of Tehachapi, Jay Schlosser, Development Services Director	741, 711	22-9, 22-69
Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency, Justin Livesay, Engineering Manager	775	22-37
Arvin-Edison Water Storage District, Jeevan Muhar, Engineer Manager	762	22-40
City of Lancaster Development Services Department, Trolis Niebla, Senior Manager City Engineer	759	22-43
City of Palmdale, Mike Behen, Deputy City Manager	779	22-54
County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning, Richard Marshalian	788	22-71
Greater Bakersfield Separation of Grade District, John Schuler, District Engineer	765	22-84
Kern Council of Governments, Robert Ball, Deputy Director and Planning Director	770	22-86
Kern County Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Lorelei Oviatt, Director	710	22-95
Kern County Department of Public Works, Alexa Kolosky, Planner III	742	22-101
Kern High School District, Scott Cole, Deputy Superintendent	691	22-103
Kern High School District, Jenny Hannah Brown, Facilities Director	805	22-105
Lancaster School District, Iris Ramirez	697	22-112
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Mateusz Suska, Bikeway Coordinator	696	22-114
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Toan Duong, Civil Engineer	787	22-116
Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, Adriana Raza, Customer Service Specialist	702, 721, 695	22-119, 22-121, 22-148
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Charles Holloway, Manager of Environmental Planning and Assessment	725	22-123
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Nadia Parker, Manager of Environmental Planning and Assessment	755	22-134
North Los Angeles County Transportation Coalition Joint Powers Authority, Arthur Sohikian, Executive Director	758	22-145

Chapter 23—Local Agency Comments after April 28, 2020		
Agency	Submission Number(s)	Page Number(s)
Kern County Public Works Department, Michael Dillenbeck, Public Works Manager	782	23-1
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, Arnaud Marjollet, Director of Permit Services	829	23-9
Southern California Regional Rail Authority, Planning and Development, Roderick Diaz, Director	793	23-21

Chapter 24—Tribes		
Tribe	Submission Number(s)	Page Number(s)
Santa Ynez Tribe of Chumash Indians, Sam Cohen, Government Affairs and Legal Officer	719	24-1

Chapter 25—Businesses and Organizations		
Business	Submission Number(s)	Page Number(s)
DeLu Ventures	728	25-1
Rudy Niederer	747	25-4
Paul Tecson, 3-D Capital Realty Investment, LLC	703	25-6
Best and Kreiger LLP, Michelle Oullette (on behalf of CalPortland Cement Company)	804	25-9
Brookfield Renewable, Jared Cooley, Senior Manager Operations	707, 708	25-31, 25-33
California Wildlife Foundation/California Oaks, Angela Moskow, Information Network Manager	783	25-35
Californians for High-Speed Rail, Johanna Coronado, Government Affairs Associate	705	25-46
Center for Biological Diversity, Ileen Anderson, Senior Scientist/Public Lands Desert Director	714, 716, 777	25-49, 25-51, 25-53
KGET TV, Robert Price	769	25-92
Land Veritas Corp., Tracey Brownfield, President	786	25-94
Loop Ranch LLC, John Broome, Representative	768	25-109
Mead & Hunt Inc./M & H Architecture, Inc., Lisa Harmon, Aviation/Environmental Planner	717, 726	25-113, 25-115
National Chavez Center/Cesar Chavez Foundation, Jairo Lopez, Staff Attorney	791	25-117
National Trust for Historic Preservation, Betsy Merritt, Deputy General Council	778	25-140
Pacific Crest Trail Association, Ben Barry, Southern Sierra Regional Representative	763	25-145
SC Wildlands, Kristeen Penrod, Director	780	25-161
Streetsblog Los Angeles, Joe Linton, Editor	690	25-171
Tanxh, Frank Lloyd	698	25-173
Tejon Ranch Company, Hugh McMahon, Executive Vice President of Real Estate	706	25-175
The Nature Conservancy San Diego, Cara Lacey, Associate Director Cities Program	789	25-180
UC Davis Wildlife Health Center, T. Winston Vickers, Associate Veterinarian	767, 794	25-199, 25-201
Union Pacific Railroad, Adrian Guerrero, Network Planning and Operations	760	25-205
University of Antelope Valley, Luz Sandoval, Executive Assistant to the Vice President	699	25-211
University of Arizona, Wyatt Philabaum	709	25-213

Chapter 26—Individual Comments by Last Name

Last Name	First Name	Submission Number(s)	Page Number(s)
Quan	Matthew	686	26-1
Hoagland	Robert	692	26-3
Brandelli	Wesley	704	26-5
Johnson	Henry	713	26-8
Stallman	Jim	715	26-10
Scott	Randall	718	26-12
Alvarado	Alonso	727	26-14
Borak	Harold	729	26-16
Cole	Elaine	730	26-18
Moore	Larry	731	26-20
Tope	Dennis	732, 810	26-22, 26-69
Yanez	Alonso	733	26-24
Adams	James	734	26-26
Castro	Carol	735	26-28
Inglehart	Patterson	736	26-30
Miller	Audia	737	26-32
Dorr	William	738	26-34
Calande	Bryan	739	26-36
Amavizca	Marco	740	26-38
Gutierrez	Carmen	744	26-40
Principe	Zack	745	26-42
Penrade	Christine	746	26-44
Chandler	Annag	749	26-46
Mullen	Dan	753	26-48
McDonald	James	754	26-50
Lewis	Steve	756	26-53
Williamson	Larry	757	26-56
Abdelaal	Elsayed	771	26-58
Brown	Jenny Hannah	784	26-60
blayneepps@gmail.com		796	26-64
Sunderman	Kirk	799	26-66
LeDuc	Larry	764	26-72
Nelson	Marygail	688	26-74

Chapter 27—Individual Comments by Last Name after April 28, 2020

Last Name	First Name	Submission Number(s)	Page Number(s)
Alcosta	Albert	808	27-1
Castro	Carol	809	27-3
Oxnivardt	Knudt	812	27-5

Chapter 28—Public Hearing Comments, April 23, 2020

Last Name	First Name	Submission Number(s)	Page Number(s)
Sohikian	Arthur, North Los Angeles County Transportation Coalition JPA	816	28-1
Anderson	Ileene, Center for Biological Diversity	817	28-5
Hofbauer	Steve, City of Palmdale	818	28-10
Livingston	Adam, Sequoia Riverlands Trust	819	28-13
Behen	Mike, City of Palmdale	820	28-15
Hightower	Troy	821	28-18
Greenfield	Susan	822	28-21
McIntyre	Tina, CalPortland Company	823	28-24
Spalding	John, Kern-Inyo-Mono County Building and Construction Trades Council	824	28-30
Joyce	John, <i>Rosamond News</i>	825, 826	28-32, 28-36
Snow	Gib, Snow Orthodontics	827	28-39

Chapter 29—Public Meeting Comments, March 4, 2020

Last Name	First Name	Submission Number(s)	Page Number(s)
Potter	Daniel	748	29-1
Weddell	Whitney	800	29-3
Ayer	Jacqueline, The Acton Town Council	801	29-5
Spoelstra	Duane	802	29-9
Goeschl	Don	803	29-11
Ball	Rob, Kern Council of Governments	811	29-14

Chapter 31—Federal Agency Comments

Agency	Submission Number(s)	Page Number(s)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Jean Prijatel, Manager, Environmental Review Manager	991	31-1

Chapter 32—State Agency Comments		
Agency	Submission Number(s)	Page Number(s)
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Dean Borg, Director	971	32-1
California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 4, Julie Vance, Regional Manager	988	32-3
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Tulare Unit, David Shy, Division Chief – Pre Fire	881	32-32
California Department of Transportation, District 7, Mario Mariotta, Biologist	921, 946	32-35, 32-37
California Department of Transportation, District 9, Gayle Rosander, External Project Liaison	982	32-39
California Highway Patrol, (Rudy Rodriguez, Lieutenant	983	32-41

Chapter 33—Local Agency Comments		
Agency	Submission Number(s)	Page Number(s)
City of Palmdale, Mike Behen, Deputy City Manager	992	33-1
City of Tehachapi, Jay Schlosser, Development Services Director	866, 872	33-3, 33-5
Kern Council of Governments, Robert Ball, Deputy Director and Planning Director	908, 874	33-7, 33-13
Kern County Fire Department, Jeff Gletne, Forester	969	33-15
Kern High School District, Mike Zulfa, Associate Superintendent of Business	865	33-17

Chapter 34—Businesses and Organizations		
Business	Submission Number(s)	Page Number(s)
Border Lands Blood Works, Dustin Downing	903	34-1
California Quarry Products, Stuart Jay	902	34-4
California Wildlife Foundation/California Oaks, Angela Moscow	967	34-6
Californians for High-Speed Rail CA4HSR, Troy Hightower	909	34-12
Center for Biological Diversity, Tiffany Yap	968	34-17
Kern River Family Mortuary, Rob Harding	879	34-47
Land Veritas Corp., H. Tracey Brownfield	928	34-49
Mullenax Ranch, LLC, Alex Mullenax	951	34-63
Mullenax Ranch, LLC, Ernie Mullenax	953	34-66
Red House Barbeque and The Shed's Restaurants, Mano Lujan	950	34-68
Tejon Ranch, Derek Abbott	987	34-70
The Lacava Group, Tony Lacava	868	34-73
The Nature Conservancy, Cara Lacey	970	34-75
University of Arizona, Christina Evans	913	34-88
University of Arizona, Ella Kaufman	914	34-93
University of Arizona, Camille McCollum	917	34-98

Chapter 35—Individual Comments by Last Name			
Last Name	First Name	Submission Number(s)	Page Number(s)
Adams	Sandra	886	35-1
Amparan	Kimberly	934	35-3
Anderson	Christie	975	35-5
Anonymous		876, 937, 942, 949, 959	35-7, 35-9, 35-11, 35-13, 35-16
Austin	Nancy	867	35-18
Baker	Tuesday	911	35-20
Barrett	Wendy	889	35-22
Batea	Samantha	910	35-24
Bay	Cheryl	952	35-26
Beavers	Nancy	930	35-30
Benavides	Misty	973	35-32
Blondia	Amarilla	978	35-34
Bowman	Kathlene	915	35-36
Brant	Patricia	948	35-38
Brehm	Heinz	924	35-41
Brown	Alia	962	35-45
Brumberger	Jesse	925, 927	35-47, 35-50
Budge	Key	882	35-52
Butela	Michael	896	35-54
Cabrera	Margaret	894	35-56
Carey	Jennifer	883	35-58
Casterline	Susan	888	35-60
Castro	Robert	956	35-62
Close	Raymond and Margaret	947	35-64
Cruise	Gordon	954	35-66
Dalquist	Eric	940	35-68
Davis	Lindsay	960	35-70
Dixon	Robert	966	35-72
Dohr	William	871	35-75
Dull	Patricia	922	35-77
Dwight	Kimberly	958	35-79
Foster	Mark	891	35-81
Fox	Mark	870	35-83
Gomez	Anissa	986	35-85
Hand	Deborah	920	35-87
Heaton	Eileen	984	35-90

Chapter 35—Individual Comments by Last Name

Last Name	First Name	Submission Number(s)	Page Number(s)
Heeter	Jack	878	35-92
Hicks	Kailey	963	35-94
Huecker	Steven	974	35-99
Hunt	William	944	35-101
Inaudible		892	35-103
Ingersoll	Caleb	884	35-105
Johnson	Tabitha	904	35-107
Ketcheside	Kelsey	898	35-109
King	Sharon	907	35-111
Kloth	Ray and Margie	923	35-113
Knox	Kelsey	961	35-115
Larson	Tina	985	35-117
Lazaro	Helena	877	35-120
Lindsey	Monica	955	35-122
Loera	Judy	945	35-124
Martinez	Monico	890	35-126
Matt	Patricia	885	35-128
McBride	Madison	906	35-130
McCarthy	Lynndee	976	35-132
McDermott	Linda	919	35-134
McIntyre	Carolyn	939	35-136
Mel	Tracy	931	35-138
Melvill	Sally	895	35-140
Michael	Tiffany	977	35-142
Miles	Jenny	936	35-144
Mullenax	Alex	899	35-146
Naber	Dale	926	35-148
Norman	Terry	905	35-150
Odneal	Robyn	957	35-153
Ormond	Leslie	897	35-154
Palmer	Diana	873, 875, 929	35-157, 35-160, 35-162
Phillips	Jeanine	964	35-166
Phillips	Scott	965	35-168
Pratt	Dave	938	35-170
Puffer	Michael	887	35-172
Rieck	June	912	35-174

Chapter 35—Individual Comments by Last Name			
Last Name	First Name	Submission Number(s)	Page Number(s)
Rodgers	Emily	935	35-176
Scott	Randall	972	35-178
Smith	Nell	941	35-180
Stegall	David	916	35-182
Toldson	Angel	893	35-184
Van Loon	Morgan	980	35-186
Wade	Michael	943	35-188
Warner	Margo	932	35-190
Wetzel	Tyler	933	35-192
Wilson	Joyce	918	35-194
Worrell	Vikki and Mike	900, 901	35-196, 35-198

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