

RESOLUTION #HSRA 18-19

**State's Preferred Alternative for the
Palmdale to Burbank Project Section Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact
Statement**

Whereas, the Authority has conducted preliminary engineering and environmental analysis to a level sufficient to describe the comparative differences among the Build Alternatives (Refined SR14, E1, and E2 Alternatives) for the Palmdale to Burbank Project Section;

Whereas, the Authority has briefed the regulatory agencies and conducted stakeholder working groups and open houses in Palmdale, Acton, Sun Valley, and Pacoima to seek input, which was carefully considered;

Whereas, the preliminary analyses indicate that the Refined SR14 Alternative strikes the best balance among project alternatives by meeting project objectives while also incorporating stakeholder input and minimizing effects to environmental and community resources;

Whereas, the Board has delegated to staff the authority to develop the Draft EIR/EIS;

Whereas, the Board has retained authority to identify a preferred alternative in the Draft EIR/EIS;

Whereas, staff has identified the public transparency benefits of identifying the State's Preferred Alternative in the forthcoming Palmdale to Burbank Draft EIR/EIS;

Whereas, the identification of the State's Preferred Alternative at this time is not a final decision by the Board and allows for full consideration of all the effects of the alternatives considered in the still-ongoing environmental process, and,

Whereas, the Authority recognizes the function of the forthcoming Palmdale to Burbank Draft EIR/EIS is to elicit public comments prior to the Authority making any final decision regarding any alternative.

Therefore, it is resolved:

The Authority Board concurs with the staff recommendation that Refined SR14 Alternative shall be identified as the State's Preferred Alternative in the forthcoming Palmdale to Burbank Draft EIR/EIS, provided that detailed studies of the following impacts and potential mitigations and their costs are included in the public Draft EIR/EIS and made available to the Board: (1) noise impacts in rural communities; (2) water impacts from tunneling; and, (3) tunneling.

The Authority Board directs staff to work with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to obtain FRA's concurrence that the Refined SR14 Alternative is the FRA NEPA Preferred Alternative.

The Authority Board further directs staff to continue to engage local stakeholders to address concerns about high-speed rail within their communities.

Vote: 6 – 0
Yes: Camacho; Miller; Richard; Richards; Rossi; Schenk
No: N/A
Absent: Curtin; Lowenthal
Date: 11/15/18

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