



Press Release

CONTACT: Annie Parker
(916) 403-6931 (w)
(916) 203-2960 (c)
Annie.Parker@hsr.ca.gov



DATE: December 15, 2016

California High-Speed Rail Shares Its Progress in Sustainability *Setting a New Standard for Green Construction and Clean Energy Operations*

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Today, the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) issued its first Sustainability Report which describes the innovative approach it is taking to the design, construction and operations of California’s high-speed rail system. High-speed rail is the most sustainable option to keep Californians moving across the state in the 21st Century. It is a vital cornerstone of California’s progressive policies to tackle climate change, protect the environment and enhance quality of life. Work is underway now to deliver a high-quality, zero-emissions transportation system that benefits Californians now and for generations to come.

“We are committed to delivering the high-speed rail program in a manner that sets a new standard for infrastructure delivery in California and the U.S.,” said Authority CEO Jeff Morales. “We are proudly building this essential transportation backbone while, at the same time, being respectful stewards of the environment, watchful of the global climate, and responsible to the people of California.”

California high-speed rail’s scope and scale provide a unique opportunity and responsibility to drive change in supply chains for construction materials and for the planning of 21st-century infrastructure. The sustainability report highlights the Authority’s objectives, plans and progress on a range of fronts including energy, natural resources, infrastructure, station communities and business management.

The Sustainability Report describes the Authority’s commitment to recycling 100 percent of the steel and concrete used during construction and divert at least 75 percent of all waste from landfills. Major steps are also being taken to reinforce a clean energy economy and to use recycled materials wherever possible to reduce the demand for virgin materials. Safeguarding public and customer health—and protecting and restoring natural habitat and wildlife corridors—are also key priorities of the Authority.

The Sustainability Report details how the Authority is working with its construction contractors to reduce greenhouse gas and air pollution emissions generated during construction. In 2015 alone, more than 12,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions were avoided by recycling 99 percent of construction materials. Contractors continue to dramatically reduce air pollutants released during construction by using some of the most environmentally-friendly construction equipment available.

“The Sustainability Report shows that California has embedded the concept of sustainability into every element of the High-Speed Rail project,” said California Air Resources Board Executive Officer Richard Corey. “Not only will it transform the transportation system of California leading to reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants, it is already showing how infrastructure projects – both large and small -- can be developed and carried out to be sustainable at every stage.”

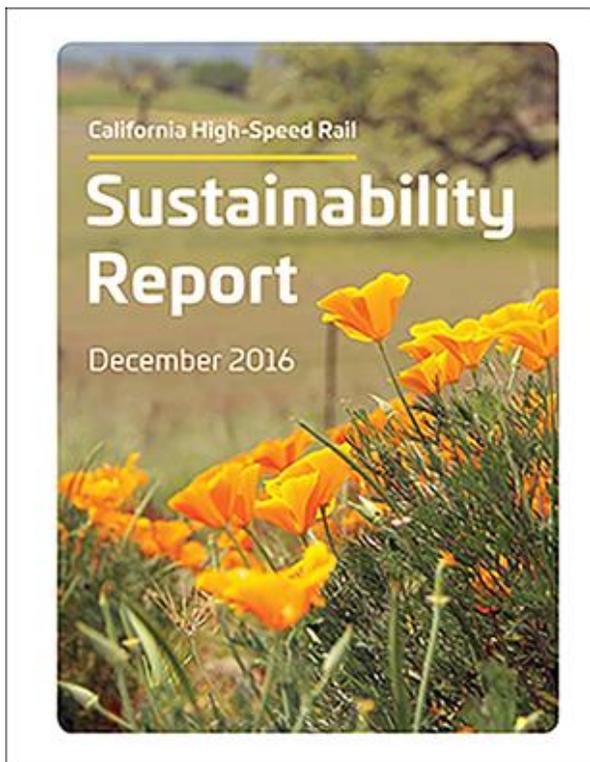
High-speed rail construction in the Central Valley is also having a positive impact on small businesses in disadvantaged communities working to meet the program’s sustainability goals. One of those businesses, J. Kroeker, a Fresno-based,



woman-owned business, has a contract for demolition and recycling and has achieved its objective by recycling, reusing, or stockpiling more than 37,000 tons of concrete in 2015.

The Authority's commitment to sustainability also cuts across system delivery. This includes commitments to use 100 percent renewable energy to power the system and to design stations to achieve net-zero energy, meaning that each year they will produce as much energy on-site as they consume. As more people shift from driving and flying to traveling by high-speed rail, the system will contribute substantially to reducing greenhouse gas emissions across the state. Over time, the average annual greenhouse gas emissions savings of the system running from San Francisco/Merced through the Central Valley and to Los Angeles/Anaheim is projected to be equivalent to taking 285,000 passenger vehicles off the road every year.

For more information, read the full Sustainability Report or get a quick glimpse with the Sustainability Report Highlights handout:



#####