



Press Release

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## High-Speed Rail Authority Board of Directors Approves Alignment within Fresno to Bakersfield Project Section Certifies Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report

**BAKERSFIELD, Calif.** – Today, the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) Board of Directors certified the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (Final Supplemental EIR) for the Fresno to Bakersfield Project Section and approved a high-speed rail alignment between Poplar Avenue in Kern County and the F Street station location in downtown Bakersfield. This allows the Authority to take additional steps toward advancing major work on the project.

“Today’s decision by the Board of Directors reflects the successful partnership between the Authority and our regional partners to find a path forward in bringing high-speed rail to Bakersfield,” said Board Chair Dan Richard. “Having a high-speed rail station in Bakersfield will spur new economic activities and development in the region, and tie the Central Valley to Northern and Southern California like never before.”

On Tuesday, the Board of Directors heard a staff presentation and took public comments on the Fresno to Bakersfield Final Supplemental EIR. After deliberations, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to certify the document under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), approve the project and alignment between Poplar Avenue in Kern County and the F Street station location in downtown Bakersfield and adopt documents required under CEQA.

“We are pleased with the Board’s decision today, which reflects our ongoing commitment to working with our stakeholders to make high-speed rail a reality,” said Central Valley Regional Director Diana Gomez. “With this decision, we are another step closer to making sure our major cities in the Central Valley see the benefits of high-speed rail.”

The Final Supplemental EIR evaluates what is known as the Locally Generated Alternative, which extends from Shafter east towards State Route 99 and the existing Union Pacific Railroad tracks, then southward into Bakersfield, ending at a station location on F Street in downtown Bakersfield. The document then compares the Locally Generated Alternative to the alignment in the area previously studied in 2014.

In the next step, the Federal Railroad Administration would issue a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Final Supplemental EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and then would consider approving the project and issuing a Record of Decision under NEPA.

The Final Supplemental EIR and associated documents are available online at the Authority’s website at: [http://hsr.ca.gov/Programs/Environmental\\_Planning/final\\_supplemental\\_fresno\\_bakersfield.html](http://hsr.ca.gov/Programs/Environmental_Planning/final_supplemental_fresno_bakersfield.html)





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