



# PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY/NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

## *California High-Speed Rail – Fresno to Bakersfield Project Section:*

### DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

#### PROPOSED PROJECT AND LOCATION

The Fresno to Bakersfield Project Section (F-B) Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) considered several alternatives between the cities of Fresno and Bakersfield and ultimately identified a Preferred Alternative from the Fresno high-speed rail station to the Bakersfield high-speed rail station to Oswell Street in Bakersfield. The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) Board of Directors (Board) certified the Fresno to Bakersfield Section Final EIR/EIS in May 2014. The Preferred Alternative identified by the Authority Board consists of portions of the BNSF Alternative in combination with the Corcoran Bypass, Allensworth Bypass, and Bakersfield Hybrid alternatives. In Bakersfield, the Preferred Alternative included a station that would be constructed at the corner of Truxtun and Union Avenues/State Route 204, as well as a maintenance of infrastructure facility (MOIF) that would lie along the alignment just north of the City of Bakersfield and 7th Standard Road. The Board only approved a portion of the alignment extending from downtown Fresno to approximately 7th Standard Road (a point north of Bakersfield). Therefore, the Board did not approve a location for the portion of the alignment that extended into Bakersfield. The FRA, in August 2014, approved the entire Preferred Alternative from the Fresno Station to Oswell Street in Bakersfield.

#### PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

The City of Bakersfield filed a lawsuit challenging the Board's approvals under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In a Settlement Agreement reached in December 2014 the City of Bakersfield and the Authority agreed to work together to develop and study a new alternative for the Bakersfield portion of the project that would be acceptable to the City and meet the Authority's design requirements. The Fresno to Bakersfield Locally Generated Alternative (F-B LGA) evolved from this mutual cooperation and subsequent public input. The Authority has also worked with the City of Shafter to include in the F-B LGA a new design for the alignment within Shafter. The F-B LGA extends from Poplar Avenue north of Shafter, continues on retained fill through the City of Shafter, and transitions to elevated structure (viaduct) into the City of Bakersfield. In Bakersfield, the high-speed rail station associated with the F-B LGA would be located at the intersection of F Street and State Route 204 (Golden State Avenue).

The Authority and the FRA have prepared a Supplemental EIR/EIS for the F-B Project Section. The Supplemental EIR/EIS evaluates the environmental and community impacts associated with the F-B LGA and compares the potential impacts of the F-B LGA to the impacts identified for the corresponding portion of the Preferred Alternative (May 2014 Project). For the purposes of the Supplemental EIR/EIS, the May 2014 Project consists of the following portions of the Preferred Alternative: the BNSF Alternative from Poplar Avenue to Hageman Road, and the Bakersfield Hybrid Alternative from Hageman Road to Oswell Street.

#### ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

Significant pre-mitigation environmental effects resulting from the F-B LGA are anticipated in the following resource areas: transportation (project impacts); air quality (construction impacts); noise and vibration (construction and project

impacts); biological resources and wetlands (construction and project impacts); hydrology and water resources (project impacts); geology, soils, seismicity, and paleontology (construction impacts); hazardous materials and wastes (construction impacts); safety and security (project impacts); socioeconomics and communities (project impacts); agricultural lands (project impacts); parks, recreation, and open space (construction and project impacts); aesthetics and visual resources (construction and project impacts); cultural resources (construction impacts); and environmental justice (construction and project impacts). These are the impacts known at the time of study. Additional issues may arise in the public and public agency review period that will be addressed in a response to comments.

### **HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES**

The F-B LGA and the May 2014 Project would cross several sites on hazardous waste lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code. For the F-B LGA, one site that fits the criteria for Section 65962.5(a)(4) was identified. The identified site is included in the 149 sites of potential environmental concern (PEC) that were reviewed during the baseline conditions assessment for all sites with the potential to affect the F-B LGA study area negatively. The one site is the 15-acre Brown and Bryant site at 135 Commercial Drive in Shafter (PEC Site 22), which operated from 1955 to 1989 as a manufacturing, blending, and packaging/re-packaging facility for pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, fumigants, defoliant, and fertilizers. This site is currently an open remediation case with oversight by Department of Toxic Substances Control. Of the two PEC sites identified in the May 2014 Project, neither fits the criteria for Section 65962.5(a)(4).

### **PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD**

The Fresno to Bakersfield Project Section Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS is being made available to the public for a **60-day review and comment period** in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). During the 60-day comment period, written comments may be submitted in the following ways:

- Via mail to “Fresno to Bakersfield Project Section Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS Comment,” 770 L Street, Suite 620 MS-1, Sacramento, CA 95814;
- Through the Authority’s website ([www.hsr.ca.gov](http://www.hsr.ca.gov)); or
- Via email to [Fresno\\_Bakersfield@hsr.ca.gov](mailto:Fresno_Bakersfield@hsr.ca.gov) with the subject line “Fresno to Bakersfield Project Section Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS Comment.”

The comment period is from November 9, 2017 to January 16, 2018. Comments must be received electronically, or postmarked, on or before January 16, 2018.

The information in the Fresno to Bakersfield Project Section Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS and the comments received will be taken into account by the Authority and FRA when they consider whether to approve the May 2014 Project or the F-B LGA from south of Poplar Avenue (north of Shafter) to Oswell Street (in Bakersfield). The Authority and FRA will prepare a Fresno to Bakersfield Project Section Final Supplemental EIR/EIS, which will include responses to comments received and a description of the preferred alignment and station location.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

The Authority and FRA invite you to attend the public hearing that has been scheduled on **December 19, 2017** to receive public and public agency comments on the Fresno to Bakersfield Project Section Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS. The hearing is scheduled from **3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at **Bakersfield Marriott Hotel, 801 Truxtun Avenue**, Bakersfield, California. The public hearing will provide an opportunity for members of the public formally to submit an oral comment on the Fresno to Bakersfield Project Section Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS. Written comments also may be submitted at the hearing. Interpretes al español estarán en la reunión. The meeting facility is accessible for persons with disabilities. All requests for reasonable accommodations and/or language services must be submitted 72 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting date. Please contact the public outreach team at (888) 481-2772 or call the California Relay Service at 711. All public hearings will be wheelchair accessible. Please check the Authority website ([www.hsr.ca.gov](http://www.hsr.ca.gov)), for more information, including up-to-date information on the planned hearing.

### **COPIES OF THE DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL EIR/EIS**

Visit the Authority website ([www.hsr.ca.gov](http://www.hsr.ca.gov)) or the FRA website ([www.fra.dot.gov](http://www.fra.dot.gov)) to view and download the Fresno to Bakersfield Project Section Final EIR/EIS and Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS. The Authority website also contains technical reports that inform the Fresno to Bakersfield Project Section Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS. You may also

request a CD-ROM of the Fresno to Bakersfield Project Section Final EIR/EIS and Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS by calling (888) 481-2772. Printed copies of the Fresno to Bakersfield Project Section Final EIR/EIS and Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS have been placed at the following public libraries: Kern County Library, Beale Memorial Library (701 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA); Kern County Library, Shafter Branch (236 James Street, Shafter, CA); Kern County Library Baker Branch (1400 Baker Street, Bakersfield, CA); and Kern County Library, Rathbun Branch (200 West China Grade Loop, Bakersfield, CA). The Executive Summary is available in Spanish upon request.

Printed copies of the Fresno to Bakersfield Project Section Draft Final EIR/EIS and Supplemental EIR/EIS and the associated technical reports also are available for review during business hours (8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.) at the Authority's offices at 770 L Street, Suite 620 MS-1, Sacramento, CA and at 1111 H Street, Fresno, CA.

The Authority does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities.

