

9 Public and Agency Involvement

Pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) have conducted an extensive public and agency involvement program as part of the Fresno to Bakersfield Section environmental review process, including during the preparation of the August 2011 Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS), the July 2012 Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS, and the April 2014 *Fresno to Bakersfield Section California High-Speed Train Final Project EIR/EIS*. For more information, see the Fresno to Bakersfield Final EIR/EIS, Chapter 8.0. These efforts are consistent with the Authority's emphasis on public and agency outreach throughout the development of the statewide high-speed rail system. This includes public involvement and outreach through meetings, presentations and materials, agency consultations, and notification and circulation of the Statewide Program EIR/EIS. For more information on this process, refer to the Statewide Program EIR/EIS. This Chapter focuses on the extensive public and agency outreach associated with the Fresno to Bakersfield Locally Generated Alternative (F-B LGA) Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS including the following efforts:

- Public involvement and outreach included: the preparation and distribution of informational materials such as fact sheets; informational meetings, public and agency scoping meetings, meetings with individuals and groups, as well as presentations; workshops regarding the F-B LGA, and briefings to interested and/or affected stakeholders.
- Agency involvement included agency scoping meetings, an interagency working group, meetings with agency representatives, and other agency consultation.
- Public and agency outreach included focused informational meetings and presentations.

In addition, the Authority posts meeting notices and public documents on its website. The site includes information about the high-speed rail (HSR), the proposed HSR route, the Authority's 2016 Business Plan, newsletters, press releases, board of directors meetings, recent developments, status of the environmental review process, Authority contact information, and related links. The Authority Board of Directors meetings are open to the public. In addition, the meeting agendas provide an opportunity for public comment on any public agenda item.

This Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS in its entirety has been posted on the Authority's [website](#) as well as FRA's [website](#). In addition, the Authority published materials online (in English and Spanish) summarizing the purpose and contents of the document and how to participate in the public comment period.

The Authority started holding statewide agency meetings in 2007 for the Fresno to Bakersfield project section. Public workshops, open houses, and other informational sessions were held, public comments were accepted, and draft documents were widely circulated. Details on public and agency outreach can be found in Chapter 8 of the Fresno to Bakersfield Section Final EIR/EIS. Meetings and consultations with Native American Tribes have been ongoing. Further details can be found in Section 3.17.3.2 of the Fresno to Bakersfield Section Final EIR/EIS. Table 8-1 of the Fresno to Bakersfield Section Final EIR/EIS lists the meetings held through March 2014 as part of the lead agencies' outreach effort.

On May 7, 2014, the Authority certified the Fresno to Bakersfield Section Final EIR, and approved the Preferred Alternative, including an alignment through Bakersfield known as the "Bakersfield Hybrid Alignment." In its written complaint filed on June 5, 2014, the City of Bakersfield noted that the Preferred Alternative alignment identified in the Fresno to Bakersfield Section Final EIR/EIS would severely impact the City's ability to utilize existing City assets including its corporation yard, senior housing, and parking facilities at the Rabobank Arena, Theatre, and Convention Center, would render unusable one of the City's premier health facilities, and would affect the Bakersfield Commons project, a retail/commercial/residential development. The City and the Authority entered into a Final Executed Settlement Agreement in December 2014.

The Final Executed Settlement Agreement identified several requirements for public and agency involvement over the course of the development of a locally generated alternative to the previously approved project. First, the Settlement Agreement required the City and the Authority to work together to identify the locally generated alignment and station location alternatives, and to co-sponsor two public workshops on the Locally Generated Alternative, ensuring public and agency input leading up to the preparation of this Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS. Also per the Settlement Agreement, the Authority has agreed to hold a public workshop at which oral public comments on the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS would be taken; this meeting would take place in the City of Bakersfield and would include a court reporter to transcribe any public comments provided. Finally, the Authority has agreed that its Board of Directors meeting, where a final decision on the alignment/station location will be made, will be held in the City of Bakersfield to maximize public input opportunities for Bakersfield residents.

Throughout the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS development process, some of the most frequently asked questions related to noise generation, property values, right-of-way acquisition, and construction employment opportunities. Project staff addressed these and other questions, often referring to the environmental analysis underway for this Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS and informing people of upcoming opportunities to provide comments. Those comments raised by the public have informed this Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS. When developing the F-B LGA, project staff also considered alternative alignments or design modifications that individuals and organizations had suggested. When questions could not be answered at a public meeting, outreach staff followed up with inquiring party(ies) or included the discussion as items to be addressed at future public meetings.

The Authority awarded the HSR Station Planning Grant to the city of Bakersfield similar to other HSR station cities. The purpose of the grant is to help Bakersfield prepare for the economic development and land use changes that could result from an HSR station within these cities. The City of Bakersfield and the Authority worked together to further the Station Area Plan, producing a Scope of Work consistent with Station Plans in other HSR station cities. The Bakersfield City Council approved the Station Area Planning grant funding from the Authority on August 12, 2015 (City of Bakersfield 2015), and on August 29, 2016, the City released the Notice of Preparation announcing the upcoming availability of an EIR for the Station Area Plan.

9.1 Environmental Justice Outreach

The Authority conducted specific outreach efforts to low-income and minority populations and to communities of concern. The purpose of this outreach was to increase understanding of how the project may potentially affect these populations and how those effects could be minimized. Environmental justice populations were identified using year 2000 and 2010 data from the United States Census Bureau, as well as American Community Survey data and participation data by zip code for state social service and other programs. The *Fresno to Bakersfield Draft Supplemental Community Impact Assessment Technical Report* contains a list of environmental justice–related interest groups that the Authority has engaged through outreach efforts (Authority and FRA 2017). Spanish-language materials were posted to the website and used to notify the public of meetings. Spanish-language interpreters and materials were available at all public information meetings. Informational open houses were held in Bakersfield August 25 and November 5, 2015, and informational open houses were held in Shafter September 17, 2015 and August 25, 2016. A Community Open House was held in the community of Oildale on June 22, 2016. (Further discussion of these meetings can be found below in Section 9.3.1 of this Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS.) Fliers were delivered or emailed to advertise each open house to several community and public spaces serving potentially impacted low-income and minority populations, including schools, business groups, and environmental justice groups. For additional information about environmental justice, please see Chapter 5.0, Environmental Justice. A summary of the consultation with Native American tribes and other Interested Parties with concerns about potential effects to cultural resources is documented in Section 3.17 Cultural Resources. Table 9-1 lists the meetings held as part of the Authority’s outreach effort.

9.2 Public and Agency Scoping

Although neither CEQA nor NEPA require scoping for a Supplemental EIR/EIS, the Authority hosted agency and public meetings and met with affected stakeholders to inform the F-B LGA development process. Under CEQA, a Supplemental EIR must fulfill the public notice and review requirements of a draft EIR, but not the initial scoping, which has been fulfilled by the previous EIR/EIS (California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines 2014 Sections 15163 and 15087). For additional information regarding the public and agency scoping process for the Fresno to Bakersfield Section, see Section 8.2 of the Fresno to Bakersfield Section Final EIR/EIS.

Public and agency scoping conducted for this Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS has involved stakeholder and agency coordination as listed in Table 9-1.

Table 9-1 Public and Agency Meetings¹

Date of Meeting	Meetings Held from March 2015 to March 2017	Topic
3/5/2015	Kern Council of Government	F-B LGA Kick-off Meeting.
4/9/2015	Bakersfield TWG #1	Presentation of alignment alternatives and station locations/configuration.
4/10/2015	Shafter TWG #1	Presentation of alignment alternatives and station locations/configuration.
4/30/2015	Meeting with USACE and USEPA	Provided an introduction of the F-B LGA.
5/7/2015	Shafter	Presentation of alignment alternatives and station locations/configuration.
5/14/2015	Bakersfield TWG #2	Presentation of alignment alternatives and station locations/configuration.
6/2/2015	Halliburton	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Halliburton properties.
6/10/2015	Friant Water Authority	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Friant Water Authority facilities.
6/11/2015	Bakersfield TWG #3	Presentation of alignment alternatives and station locations/configuration.
6/11/2015	Shafter TWG #2	Presentation of alignment alternatives and station locations/configuration.
6/22/2015	Schlumberger	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Schlumberger property.
7/8/2015	Bidart Brothers/Saco Ranch	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Bidart Brothers/Saco Ranch properties.
7/8/2015	South Valley Farms	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the South Valley Farms properties.
7/9/2015	City of Bakersfield	Coordination of ongoing stakeholder outreach and community open houses as part of the supplemental environmental process for the F-B LGA.
7/9/2015	Bakersfield City School District	Provided an introduction of the F-B LGA.
7/9/2015	Bakersfield TWG #4	Presentation of alignment alternatives and station locations/configuration.
7/21/2015	USACE, EPA, USFWS, CDFW, RWQCB	Presentation of alignment feasibility.
7/22/2015	Bakersfield City School District	Follow up discussion to review F-B LGA/May 2014 Project HSR alignment map.

Date of Meeting	Meetings Held from March 2015 to March 2017	Topic
7/22/2015	Fairfax School District	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Fairfax School District.
7/22/2015	North Kern Water Storage District	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the North Kern Water Storage District facilities.
7/24/2015	City of Bakersfield	Coordination of ongoing stakeholder outreach and community open houses as part of the supplemental environmental process for the F-B LGA.
7/28/2015	Mercado Latino Tianguis (Owner)	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Mercado Latino Tianguis.
7/29/2015	Beardsley School District	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Beardsley School District.
7/29/2015	Bakersfield Cotton Warehouse	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Bakersfield Cotton Warehouse property.
7/29/2015	Titan Cold Storage	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Titan Cold Storage property.
8/7/2015	City of Bakersfield	Coordination of ongoing stakeholder outreach and community open houses as part of the supplemental environmental process for the F-B LGA.
8/13/2015	Kern High School District	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Kern High School District.
8/13/2015	Rain for Rent	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Rain for Rent properties.
8/14/2015	Lennar Homes	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Lennar Homes properties.
8/14/2015	City of Bakersfield	Coordination of ongoing stakeholder outreach and community open houses as part of the supplemental environmental process for the F-B LGA.
8/19/2015	Sumner Street Businesses	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Sumner Street businesses.
8/23/2015	El Mercado Latino Tianguis – Activity Center	F-B LGA info staffed by Spanish speakers
8/25/2015	Bakersfield Open House	Community Open House with displays providing history of system wide project, explanation of the NEPA/CEQA process, environmental issues to be studied, roll out maps of proposed F-B LGA, and opportunity to provide written comments.
8/28/2015	City of Bakersfield	Coordination of ongoing stakeholder outreach and community open houses as part of the supplemental environmental process for the F-B LGA.
9/17/2015	Shafter Open House	Community Open House with displays providing history of system wide project, explanation of the NEPA/CEQA process, environmental issues to be studied, roll out maps of proposed F-B LGA, and opportunity to provide written comments.
9/18/2015	Colliers International (Veterans Affairs land developer)	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the proposed Veterans Affairs facilities.

Date of Meeting	Meetings Held from March 2015 to March 2017	Topic
10/6/2015	Bakersfield TWG #5	Presentation of alignment alternatives and station locations/configuration.
10/6/2015	Shafter TWG #3	Provide an overview of the Shafter Community Open House.
10/20/2015	Bidart Brothers/Saco Ranch	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Bidart Brothers/Saco Ranch properties.
10/20/2015	Jaco Oil	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Jaco Oil property.
10/22/2015	City of Bakersfield	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to Weill Park and Section 4(f) park resources.
10/27/2015	Golden Empire Gleaners	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Golden Empire Gleaners facilities.
10/27/2015	Halliburton	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Halliburton properties.
10/27/2015	Rain for Rent	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Rain for Rent properties.
10/30/2015	City of Shafter	Coordination for the 11/5/15 community open house.
11/2/2015	City of Bakersfield	Coordination for the 11/5/15 community open house.
11/5/2015	Joint FRA/HSR Community Open House	Community Open House with displays providing history of system wide project, explanation of the NEPA/CEQA process, environmental issues to be studied, roll out maps of proposed F-B LGA, and opportunity to provide written comments.
11/5/2015	FRA and City of Bakersfield	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to Weill Park and Section 4(f) park resources.
11/16/2015	Caltrans District 6	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to Caltrans facilities.
11/16/2015	North Kern County Water Storage District	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the North Kern Water Storage District facilities.
11/17/2015	San Joaquin Valley Pollution Control District	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Bakersfield-Golden Air Monitoring Site.
11/17/2015	John Giumarra Vineyards	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the John Giumarra Vineyards properties.
11/19/2015	Kern County Farm Bureau	Presentation of the proposed F-B LGA to the Kern County Farm Bureau.
1/20/2016	Rotary Club (Diana Gomez)	Presentation of the proposed F-B LGA to the Rotary Club.
1/21/2016	Premiere Agriculture Properties, LLC	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Premiere Agricultural Properties, LLC properties.
1/21/2016	Premiere Farmland Partners IV LP	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Premiere Farmland Partners IV LP properties.
1/21/2016	California Water Services Company	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the California Water Services Company properties.
1/27/2016	Pensinger's RV	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Pensinger's RV properties.

Date of Meeting	Meetings Held from March 2015 to March 2017	Topic
1/27/2016	Kern County Cemetery District No. 1	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Kern County Cemetery District No. 1 properties.
1/27/2016	Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District.
1/27/2016	Kern County Water Agency Improvement District No. 4	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Kern County Water Agency Improvement District No. 4 properties.
1/28/2016	Oildale Mutual Water Company and North of the River MWD	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Oildale Mutual Water Company and North of the River MWD properties.
1/28/2016	Silo City (Coffee Road)	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Silo City properties.
1/28/2016	Sun Coast Materials Co	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Sun Coast Materials Co properties.
2/10/2016	Giumarra Vineyards Corporation	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Giumarra Vineyards Corporation properties.
2/10/2016	Independent Oil Producers Agency	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Independent Oil Producers Agency properties.
2/10/2016	Meadows Field Airport	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Meadows Field Airport properties.
2/29/2016	Kern County Superintendent for Schools	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Kern County School Districts.
2/29/2016	Cawelo Water District	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Cawelo Water District properties.
2/29/2016	The Garlic Company	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Garlic Company properties.
2/29/2016	Western State Petroleum Association	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Western State Petroleum Association properties.
3/1/16	Kern County Roads Department	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to Kern County roads.
3/3/16	Golden Empire Transit	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to Golden Empire Transit facilities/routes.
4/7/16	Bakersfield TWG #6	Presentation of station location/configuration.
4/8/16	Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA.
4/8/16	North Kern Water Storage District	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to North Kern Water Storage District properties.
4/12/16	Bidart Brothers/Saco Ranch	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to the Bidart Brothers/Saco Ranch properties.
4/12/16	City of Bakersfield	Discuss the F-B LGA as the Preliminary Preferred Alternative.
4/13/16	Steeler Construction Supply	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to Steeler Construction Supply properties.
4/13/16	Brian Hall Properties	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to Brian Hall properties.

Date of Meeting	Meetings Held from March 2015 to March 2017	Topic
4/13/16	Shafter Chamber of Commerce	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA.
4/20/16	Central Valley Regulatory Agency Coordination Meeting	Presentation of the biological resources impacts to participating agencies.
4/26/16	City of Bakersfield	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA station design.
4/27/16	Shafter TWG #4	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA.
4/27/16	Kern County Roads Department	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to Edison Highway.
4/27/16	City of Bakersfield & Kern County Roads Department	Discuss the F-B LGA as the Preliminary Preferred Alternative.
5/2/16	City of Bakersfield and Kern Council of Governments	Meeting to discuss the State Rail Planning Efforts.
5/13/16	San Joaquin Valley Contracting Procurement & Transportation Conference 2016 (Kern Minority Contractors Association & San Joaquin Valley HSR Association)	Meeting to discuss HSR employment opportunities.
5/18/16	Central Valley Regulatory Agency Coordination Meeting	Presentation of the air quality impacts to participating agencies.
5/19/16	Kern Council of Governments	Meeting to discuss the F-B LGA.
5/31/16	Kern4HMF	Meeting to discuss the potential heavy maintenance facility.
5/31/16	City of Bakersfield	Discuss the proposed F Street Station design.
6/1/16	Farmland Reserves (South Valley Farms)	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to Farmland Reserves properties.
6/3/16	Kern County Water Agency Improvement District No. 4	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to Kern County Water Agency Improvement District No. 4 properties.
6/6/16	Kern County Water Agency Improvement District No. 4 (Conference call)	Discuss the proposed F-B LGA and potential impacts to Kern County Water Agency Improvement District No. 4 properties.
6/15/16	Central Valley Regulatory Agency Coordination Meeting	Presentation of the environmental justice effects to participating agencies.
6/16/16	Department of Motor Vehicles	Discuss the potential impact to the Department of Motor Vehicles site at 3120 F Street.
6/16/16	Caltrans 6	Discuss the potential impact to Caltrans District 6.
6/22/16	Oildale Community Meeting	Community Meeting with displays providing history of system wide project, explanation of the NEPA/CEQA process, roll out maps of proposed F-B LGA, and opportunity to provide oral and written comments.
6/22/16	Kern County Roads Department	Discuss the proposed 7th Standard Road interchange configuration.
7/6/16	Bakersfield Homeless Center	Discuss the potential impact to the Bakersfield Homeless Center.
7/6/16	Kerntown Motel	Discuss the potential impact to the Kerntown Motel.

Date of Meeting	Meetings Held from March 2015 to March 2017	Topic
7/13/16	Shafter TWG #5	Presentation of configuration of F-B LGA and proposed roadway network.
7/21/16	Caltrans District 6	Discuss the potential impact to Caltrans District 6.
8/4/16	Caltrans District 6	Discuss the proposed State Route 204 and F Street Interchange and 7th Standard Road interchange.
8/10/16	Shafter Farmer's Market	Shafter Activity Center
8/25/16	Shafter Open House	Community Open House with displays providing proposed revisions to the F-B LGA design.
8/26/16	Kern Delta Water District	Coordination with Kern Delta Water District to discuss the F-B LGA and potential column placement in the vicinity of their property.
8/26/16	City of Bakersfield TWG #7	Meeting with the City of Bakersfield to discuss the F-B LGA and schedule.
8/31/16	210 Sumner Street Initial Stakeholder Meeting	Coordination with Ayromlou Trust Partners to discuss F-B LGA potential impacts to 210 Sumner Street.
9/7/16	Kern County Superintendent of Schools	Coordination to discuss the F-B LGA.
9/7/16	Bidart Brothers	Discuss potential impacts to the Bidart Brothers property from implementation of the F-B LGA.
9/21/16	Kern County Superintendent of Schools	Meeting to discuss Valley Oaks Charter School
9/21/16	Golden Empire Transit	Meeting to discuss Transit Hub at F Street Station.
10/10/16	Shafter TWG #6	Meeting with City of Shafter to discuss design changes.
11/12/16	Apple Market Activity Center, Shafter	Shafter Activity Center
11/15/16	Bidart Brothers (webinar)	Discuss potential impacts to the Bidart Brothers property from implementation of the F-B LGA.
12/2/16	Bakersfield Christmas Parade	Bakersfield Activity Center
1/24/17	Los Amigos Swap Meet and Walmart Grocery Activity Center	Bakersfield Activity Center
2/3/17	Apple Market Activity Center, Shafter	Shafter Activity Center
2/3/17	First Fridays Art Walk Activity Center, Bakersfield	Bakersfield Activity Center
3/3/17	Mercado Latino, Bakersfield	Bakersfield Activity Center
3/3/17	First Fridays Art Walk, Bakersfield	Bakersfield Activity Center
3/29/17	Shafter Cinco de Mayo Parade	Shafter Activity Center

The meetings listed in Table 9-1 are based on meetings held and scheduled as of 3/29/17.

¹ Public and agency meetings listed in Table 9-1 focused on the F-B LGA. For a complete list of meetings hosted during the development of the entire Fresno to Bakersfield Section, see Table 8-1 of the Fresno to Bakersfield Section Final EIR/EIS.

Caltrans = California Department of Transportation

CDFW = California Department of Fish and Wildlife

CEQA = California Environmental Quality Act

EIR/EIS = Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement

F-B LGA = Fresno to Bakersfield Locally Generated Alternative

FRA = Federal Railroad Administration

HSR = high-speed rail

MWD = Metropolitan Water District NEPA = National Environmental Policy Act

RV = recreational vehicle

RWQCB = Regional Water Quality Control Board

TWG = Technical Working Groups

USACE = United States Army Corps of Engineers

USEPA = United States Environmental Protection Agency

USFWS = United States Fish and Wildlife Service

9.3 Outreach During the Development of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement

During the development of the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS, the Authority and the FRA consulted with federal, state, and local agencies, and held meetings to provide project updates and obtain feedback from the public. The following subsections provide details of these activities.

9.3.1 Public Information Materials and Meetings

The Authority and FRA held informal and formal public meetings during the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS preparation process. Various meeting formats, such as open houses, formal presentations, and question and comment sessions, were used to present information and provide opportunities for input by participants. Project information and announcements were posted on the Authority’s website. Table 9-1 lists the public meeting dates and topics.

Information from Community Open Houses Available Online

Community Open House materials available at this website include the following:

- F-B LGA Fact Sheet
 - F-B LGA Visual Simulations
 - Public Meeting Presentations
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On August 25, 2015, the Authority and the City of Bakersfield hosted a community open house at the Bakersfield Marriott at the Convention Center to provide information to the interested public and agencies about the F-B LGA. The community open house provided the community an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments about the alignment being studied. Approximately 300 interested community members attended the community open house, almost one-tenth percent of Bakersfield’s population.

On September 17, 2015, the Authority hosted a community open house at the Shafter Veterans Hall to provide information to the interested public and agencies about the F-B LGA. The community open house provided the community an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments about the alignment being studied. Approximately 90 interested community members attended the community open house, approximately one-half percent of Shafter’s population.

On November 5, 2015, the Authority and the FRA hosted a community open house at Rabobank Arena Convention Center in Bakersfield to provide information about the F-B LGA. The open house provided the community an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments about the alignment that is subject of this Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS. Over 200 interested community members attended the community open house.

On June 22, 2016, the Authority hosted a community open house at the Riverview Community Center-Gymnasium in the community of Oildale. This meeting included a formal presentation by the Authority, followed by a question and answer session. A Comments and Jobs Station was available, and factsheets were provided in both English and Spanish. Approximately 20 people attended, with 11 attendees from within the borders of Oildale and 4 attendees from within a 500-foot radius of the proposed F-B LGA alignment.

On August 25, 2016, the Authority hosted a community open house meeting in the city of Shafter to present the proposed F-B LGA alignment and the retained fill design feature to gather community feedback.

9.3.2 Technical Working Group Meetings

The Authority formed two agency Technical Working Groups composed of senior staff from the cities of Shafter and Bakersfield, Kern County, and Kern Council of Governments. The purpose of these groups was to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas during the course of the study. The Technical Working Groups met regularly during the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS preparation process to facilitate information exchanges about modifications to alignments and the HSR station, and identify potential resource impacts and avoidance alternatives. The Technical Working Groups meetings helped transfer information needs, express concerns and preferences, and relay important project updates. Table 9-1 lists the Technical Working Groups meeting dates and topics.

9.3.3 Agency Meetings and Consultation

The Authority and FRA consulted with cooperating agencies (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and the Surface Transportation Board) under NEPA and with trustee and responsible agencies under CEQA regarding specific resource areas associated with these agencies. Interested state, federal, and local agencies were also consulted throughout the process. For additional discussion of the agencies meetings conducted for the Fresno to Bakersfield Section, see Section 8.4 of the Fresno to Bakersfield Section Final EIR/EIS.

On April 30, 2015, the Authority and FRA provided an overview of the conceptual F-B LGA to the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

On July 21, 2015, the Authority and FRA provided a feasibility presentation to the United States Army Corps of Engineers and United States Environmental Protection Agency. The PowerPoint presentation included a summary of the proposed facilities along the F-B LGA and of steps taken to design the alternative in an effort to avoid impacts to specific resources. The presentation also included a discussion on stakeholders who had been consulted to date.

Agency coordination meetings took place May 13, May 27, June 10, August 19, September 30, October 28, 2015, February 17, March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, September 21, and October 19, 2016. Each meeting included discussion and updates on Project sections, including the Fresno to Bakersfield section, as well as permitting, implementation, and compliance issues. Members of the Authority, FRA, and cooperating and trustee/regulatory agencies were in attendance and provided progress information and feedback.

9.3.3.1 Aesthetic Treatment Outreach

The Authority and FRA conducted outreach regarding aesthetic treatment of the HSR project and station with the cities of Bakersfield and Shafter, as well as Kern County, during Technical Working Group meetings with those parties. This outreach effort is ongoing as the project develops.

9.4 Notification and Circulation of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement

Notice regarding the availability and the circulation of this Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS was provided pursuant to CEQA and NEPA requirements in both English and Spanish. The Authority published an announcement in newspapers with general circulation in areas potentially affected by the proposed project. The Authority's announcement indicated the availability of the time and location of workshops, public hearings, where the document could be viewed, and public comment period. The Authority strategically placed the notice in a well-read section to encourage maximum notification. A letter, informational brochure, and Notice of Availability were made available in English and Spanish and mailed to property owners and tenants within a 300-foot buffer to all permanent impacts associated with the alignment as well as any stakeholders that had requested to be kept informed. The Authority also sent e-mail advising of the availability of the document for public review. A notice of completion indicating the availability of the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS was filed with the State Clearinghouse and sent to state agencies. The United States Environmental Protection Agency published a notice of availability for the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS in the *Federal Register* on September 29, 2017.

The Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS was circulated among federal, state, and local agencies, regional transportation agencies, and organizations and persons who have expressed an interest in the project. The Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS is available on the Authority and FRA's websites and on DVD upon request. Public hearing dates and locations also were posted on the Authority's website. A distribution list for the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS is provided in Chapter 10, List of Recipients.