

17 INTRODUCTION

This introduction explains the organization of and how to use Volume IV of the Final Supplemental EIR. Volume IV contains public comments on the 2017 Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the Fresno to Bakersfield Section of the High-Speed Rail project and responses.

17.1 Standard Responses to Frequently Raised Comments

As part of the public review process for the 2017 Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS, the Authority received approximately 285 written comment letters and verbal comments at public hearings containing 1,068 individual comments on the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS and on the proposed project generally. The Authority has therefore prepared a chapter of standard responses to address the most frequently raised issues. The standard responses provide a comprehensive response to an issue so that multiple aspects of the issue are addressed in an organized manner in one location. This reduces repetition of responses. When an individual comment raises an issue discussed in a standard response, the response to the individual comment includes a cross-reference to the appropriate standard response. In Volume IV, the standard responses are provided in Chapter 18.

17.2 Individual Responses to Written and Verbal Comments

Following the standard responses, the Authority provide responses to individual written and verbal comments.

The individual letters and comments included and addressed in Volume IV are organized and numbered as follows:

- Federal Agencies (Chapter 20)
- State Agencies (Chapter 21)
- Elected Officials (Chapter 22)
- Local Agencies (Chapter 23)
- Business and Organization Comments (Chapter 24)
- Individual Comments (Chapter 25)
- Public Hearing Comments (Chapter 26)

Each written submission and oral presentation can be found under the appropriate category, by name, or if representing an organization, the name of their organization. If a commenter gave oral or written testimony at one of the public hearings, they will find their comments, submissions, and responses under “Public Hearing Comments.” Each written comment letter sent to the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) or the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) was assigned a number. Each comment letter and public hearing transcript has brackets in the left-hand margin with identification numbers for each comment. Some letters or oral statements have been treated as a single comment, whereas in other submissions multiple comments have been identified, which have been numbered and responded to individually. The responses to comment(s) are located at the end of each letter or transcript. Each response is labeled with the letter/testimony identifier and comment number that relates back to that particular bracketed comment.

Some comments from the same agency, organization, or individual were submitted more than once (e.g., letter was first faxed and then mailed). These duplicate comment letters are included only once and are not repeated multiple times in the volume.

A number of written comment submissions in Volume IV included lengthy attachments to the comment letters or provided web links to supporting materials. In preparing the Final Supplemental EIR and responses to comments, every attachment provided with comment submissions or identified by a web link was reviewed and evaluated. In those cases where

attachments included additional comments on the Supplemental EIR/EIS, the comments were delineated and responded to. In those cases where attachments or web links contained information or studies in support of the written comment submission, the material was considered in developing the response.

The table of contents for Volume IV, provided below, includes a listing of each comment, submission number, and the page of the volume where it can be found.

17.3 Contents by Order of Appearance in Document

Chapter 18 – Standard Responses (English)		Page Number
AGRICULTURE LAND (AG)		
FB-LGA-Response-AG-01	Updated Agricultural Lands Methodology	18-48
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES AND WETLANDS (BIO)		
FB-LGA-Response-BIO-01	Mitigation Measures (Resources, Details and Phasing, Responsibilities and Future Planning)	18-40
GENERAL		
FB-LGA-Response-GENERAL-01	Alternatives	18-1
FB-LGA-Response-GENERAL-02	Public Outreach	18-8
FB-LGA-Response-GENERAL-03	Response to Comments Received After the Close of the Public Comment Period	18-12
FB-LGA-Response-GENERAL-04	Impacts to the Westchester Neighborhood Southwest of the F Street Station	18-13
FB-LGA-Response-GENERAL-05	Proximity of F Street Station to Downtown and Amtrak Station	18-15
FB-LGA-Response-GENERAL-07	General Support of HSR	18-22
FB-LGA-Response-GENERAL-08	Support of/Opposition to the Fresno to Bakersfield Locally Generated and May 2014 Project Alternatives	18-23
FB-LGA-Response-GENERAL-09	Oppose HSR Project (e.g., Cost; Funding; Impacts on Cities; Counties, Communities, Farmland, Agriculture, Natural Environment, Wildlife and Habitat, Air Quality, Business, Land Access, and Residential)	18-25
FB-LGA-Response-GENERAL-10	Comments with Opinion Only	18-31
FB-LGA-Response-GENERAL-11	HMF - Oil Refinery	18-31
NOISE AND VIBRATION (N&V)		
FB-LGA-Response-N&V-01	Schools	18-35
FB-LGA-Response-N&V-02	General Assessment Methodology Concerns – Use of FRA Methodology/Criteria	18-35
FB-LGA-Response-N&V-03	Determining Mitigation	18-38

Chapter 18 – Standard Responses (English)		Page Number
SAFETY AND SECURITY (S&S)		
FB-LGA-Response-S&S-01	Mitigating the Exposure to Valley Fever	18-44
SOCIOECONOMICS AND COMMUNITIES (SO)		
FB-LGA-Response-SO-02	Business Impacts – Construction/Operation Would Create Too Many Impacts on Businesses	18-47
TRANSPORTATION (TR)		
FB-LGA-Response-TR-1	Station Parking	18-33

Chapter 19 – Respuestas Estandar		Page Number
GENERALIDADES		
FB-LGA-Respuesta-GENERALIDADES-01	Alternativas	19-1
FB-LGA-Respuesta-GENERALIDADES-02	Alcance Público	19-9
FB-LGA-Respuesta-GENERALIDADES-03	Respuesta a los comentarios recibidos después del cierre del periodo de comentarios del público	19-14
FB-LGA-Respuesta-GENERALIDADES-04	Impactos en el vecindario de Westchester, al suroeste de la Estación de F Street	19-15
FB-LGA-Respuesta-GENERALIDADES-05	Proximidad de la Estación de F Street al centro y la estación de Amtrak	19-17
FB-LGA-Respuesta-GENERALIDADES-07	Apoyo General al HSR	19-20
FB-LGA-Response-GENERALIDADES-08	Apoyo/Oposición a la Alternativa Localmente Generada de Fresno a Bakersfield y las Alternativas del Proyecto de Mayo 2014	19-20
FB-LGA-Respuesta-GENERALIDADES-09	Oponerse al Proyecto del HSR (por ejemplo: costos, financiamiento, impacto en las ciudades, candados, comunidades, tierras de cultivo, agricultura, ambiente natural, vida silvestre y hábitat, calidad del aire, negocios, acceso a la tierra y áreas residenciales)	19-23
FB-LGA-Respuesta-GENERALIDADES-10	Comentarios con opinión solamente	19-30
FB-LGA-Respuesta-GENERALIDADES-11	HMF- Refinería de petróleo	19-30
TRANSPORTE		
FB-LGA-Respuesta-TR-1	Estacionamiento en la estación	19-32
RUIDO Y VIBRACIÓN		
FB-LGA-Respuesta-N&V-01	Escuelas	19-34

Chapter 19 – Repuestas Estandar		Page Number
FB-LGA-Respuesta-N&V-02	Preocupaciones Metodológicas de Evaluación General - Uso de Metodología/Criterios de la FRA	19-35
FB-LGA-Respuesta-N&V-03	Determinación de la mitigación	19-38
RECURSOS BIOLÓGICOS Y HUMEDALES		
FB-LGA-Respuesta-BIO-01	Medidas de Mitigación (Recursos, Detalles y Fases, Responsabilidades y Planificación Futura)	19-40
PROTECCIÓN Y SEGURIDAD		
FB-LGA-Respuesta-S&S-01	Mitigación de la exposición a la fiebre del Valle	19-44
SOCIOECONOMÍA Y COMUNIDADES		
FB-LGA-Respuesta-SO-02	Impactos comerciales - La construcción/operación generaría demasiados impactos en las empresas	19-48
TIERRA AGRICOLA		
FB-LGA-Respuesta-AG-01	Metodología actualizada para las tierras agrícolas	19-50

Chapter 20 – Federal Agency Comments		Page Number
Agency		
Bureau of Reclamation, Jamie LeFevre, Natural Resources Specialist		20-3
Kawaiisu Tribe of Tejon, David Laughing Horse Robinson, Chairman		20-1
United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), Region 9, Clifton Meek, Life Scientist		20-5

Chapter 21 – State Agency Comments		Page Number
Agency		
California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Julie Vance, Regional Manager		21-8
California Department of Transportation, Hussein Senan, Caltrans HSR Acting Project Manager – District 6		21-33
California State Lands Commission-Division of Environmental Planning and Management, Laura Miller		21-1
California Transportation Commission, Susan Bransen		21-38
Department of Conservation's Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (Division), Michael@DOC Johnson		21-43
State Clearinghouse, Scott Morgan, Director		21-44
State Clearinghouse, Scott Morgan, Director		21-52

Chapter 22 – Elected Official Comments	
Agency	Page Number
Assembly California Legislature, Andy Vidak, Senator 14th District	22-4
Assembly California Legislature, Vince Fong, Assemblymember	22-1

Chapter 23 – Local Agency Comments	
Agency	Page Number
City of Shafter, Christine Wilson, City Clerk	23-1
Golden Empire Transit, Karen King	23-33
Kern County Public Works, Paul Candelaria	23-37
Kern County Public Works, Paul Candelaria	23-42
Kern County Water Agency, Lauren Bauer, Water Resources Planner	23-47
Kern Delta Water District, L. Mark Mulkay, General Manager	23-53
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, Mark Montelongo, Senior Air Quality Specialist	23-55

Chapter 24 – Businesses and/or Organization Comments	
Agency	Page Number
Jonie Yates	24-1
AgReserves, Inc., Todd Turley, Land & Govt. Affairs Manager	24-3
Bethel Christian School, Michael Kennedy, Principal	24-8
Bethel Christian School, Michael Kennedy, Principal	24-13
Bethel Christian School, Michael Kennedy, Principal	24-16
Bethel Christian School, Michael Kennedy, Principal	24-18
Bethel Christian School, Michael Kennedy, Principal	24-21
Bethel Christian School, Michael Kennedy, Principal	24-26
Bethel Christian School, Michael Kennedy, Principal	24-28
Bethel Christian School, Michael Kennedy, Principal	24-31
Bethel Christian School, Michael Kennedy, Principal	24-34
Bethel Christian School, Michael Kennedy, Principal	24-37
Canoodle Studios, Seven Bates, Managing Editor	24-42
Care Delivery Adventist Health, Marsha Barnden, Corporate Director Infection Prevention & Clinical Standards	24-44
Citizens for California High Speed Rail Accountability/Chatten-Brown & Carstens, Cynthia Kellman	24-46
Con-Fab California LLC, Walter Steimle, Plant Manager	24-51
Dentons US LLP, Diane V. Donner	24-53

Chapter 24 – Businesses and/or Organization Comments	
Agency	Page Number
Farmland Reserve, Inc., Daryl Wilkendorf, Executive Vice President	24-61
Flooring Liquidators, James Spillers, Outside Sales	24-66
Flooring Liquidators Branch 9, Brianna Heiber	24-68
International Agricultural Development Graduate Group, Jonathan Yates	24-70
Kern Apartments, Unknown, Manager	24-72
KERNTEC Engineering, Michael Geyer, PE, CIH, CSP, Project Director	24-74
Kerntown Motel, Kalpesh Patel, Owner	24-76
KS Industries, LP, Steve Dempsey Jr., Project Controls	24-79
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, Adeyinka Glover, Attorney	24-81
NARVRE Unit 013, Stephen Montgomery	24-91
Optimal Hospice Care, Todd Jefferies, Director of Community Relations	24-94
Pacific Appraisal Consultants, Inc., Rich Krizo, President	24-96
TDH Associates International, Troy Hightower, Principal	24-98
TDH Associates International, Troy Hightower, Principal	24-102
Union Pacific Corporation, Clint Schelbitzki, Director – Network Development	24-112

Chapter 25 – Individual Comments by Last Name A-Clark		
Last Name	First Name	Page Number
	Ramon and Angela	25-1
A	Kyle	25-3
Aguilera	Charles	25-5
Angel	Pam	25-7
Ansolabehere	Anthony	25-9
Anthony	Dwayne	25-11
Antonino	John	25-13
Arellano	Stephanie	25-15
Armstrong	Carolyn	25-17
Armstrong	Carolyn	25-19
Armstrong	Richard	25-21
Ballou	Ken	25-23
Bank	Baynes	25-25
Barber	Alexander	25-27
Bariffi	Joe	25-29

Chapter 25 – Individual Comments by Last Name A-Clark		
Last Name	First Name	Page Number
Barnden	Marsha	25-31
Belter	Bettina	25-33
Belter	Bettina and Gary	25-35
Bender	Carol	25-37
Bennett	Lynn	25-44
Beville II	GYSGT Wally	25-46
Blankenship	Greg	25-48
Blaylock	Kristie	25-50
Bradford	Joe	25-52
Bull	Ron	25-54
Busch	Garrett	25-56
Bush	Kevin	25-58
Casida	Aaron	25-60
Clark	James	25-62

Chapter 25 – Individual Comments by Last Name Cohen		
Last Name	First Name	Page Number
Cohen	Adam	25-65
Cohen	Adam	25-69
Cohen	Adam	25-72
Cohen	Adam	25-74
Cohen	Adam	25-76
Cohen	Adam	25-80
Cohen	Adam	25-349
Cohen	Adam	25-374
Cohen	Joshua	25-377
Cohen	Sharon	25-379

Chapter 25 – Individual Comments by Last Name Coldwell-Moo		
Last Name	First Name	Page Number
Coldwell	Lee	25-381
Coons	Bob	25-383
Cooper	Bill	25-385

Chapter 25 – Individual Comments by Last Name Coldwell-Moo		
Last Name	First Name	Page Number
Craig	Nancy	25-387
Curtis	William	25-389
Dallas-Dull	Virginia	25-391
Davidson	Charles	25-393
Davis	Ruth	25-395
De Santiago	Moises	25-397
Descary	William	25-399
Dolan	Christal	25-401
Dougherty	Pamela	25-403
Dunbach	Glenn	25-408
Eichner	Karen	25-410
Elliot	Lance	25-412
Ellis Faulkner	Kathleen	25-414
Epps	Laura	25-416
Ersua	Sarah	25-419
Foley	Terry	25-421
Forrest	Jewell	25-423
Frias	Frederick	25-425
Fulop	Marcell	25-427
Gerber	Tina and James	25-429
Gipe	Paul	25-431
Glassmoyer	Gary	25-433
Godwin	Patricia	25-435
Godwin	Patricia	25-437
Godwin	Patricia	25-439
Gonzales	John	25-441
Goossen	Joseph	25-443
Graves	Travis	25-445
Graves	Martin	25-447
Graves	Laura	25-449
Greenwood	Eric	25-451
Greg	Unknown	25-453
H	Greg	25-455

Chapter 25 – Individual Comments by Last Name Coldwell-Moo		
Last Name	First Name	Page Number
Hanson	Barry	25-457
Hawkesworth	Mike	25-459
Hawkesworth	Mike	25-461
Hawkesworth	Shelly	25-463
Helm	Carol	25-466
Hernandez	Lupe	25-468
Hilliard	Andy	25-470
Houser	John	25-473
Howell	Charles	25-475
Jackson	Kent	25-477
Jackson	Kent	25-479
Jamison	John	25-481
Johnson	Sandie	25-483
Johnson	S	25-485
Jones	Mary	25-487
Kalyani	Partho	25-489
Kappler	Rick	25-491
Kappler	Rick	25-493
Karen		25-495
Karnes	John and Susan	25-497
Keith	Dylan	25-500
Kennedy	Donna	25-502
Kennedy	Michael	25-504
Kennedy	D	25-508
Kennedy	Michael	25-511
Koble	Susan	25-519
Ladd	Mike	25-521
Liascos	Karen	25-523
Love	Harry	25-525
Magar	Karin	25-527
Maxwell	Terry	25-529
Maxwell	Terry	25-532
Maxwell	Paula	25-534

Chapter 25 – Individual Comments by Last Name Coldwell-Moo

Last Name	First Name	Page Number
McKinley	J	25-536
Mehen	Jim	25-538
Mehta	Anil	25-540
Montgomery	Stephen	25-545
Moore	Terry	25-547

Chapter 25 – Individual Comments by Last Name Nelson-Yates

Last Name	First Name	Page Number
Nelson	Donna	25-549
Nelson	Astrid	25-551
Nord	Josh	25-553
Off	Pissed	25-555
Okumoto	Lawrence	25-557
Patton	Mark	25-559
Pavich	Tom	25-561
Pedersen	Becky	25-564
Pentz	Lillian	25-566
Perez	Marco	25-568
Perry	Steve	25-570
Pierce	Josh	25-572
Platero	Lucia	25-574
Porter	Deborah	25-576
Rickard	Bernadetta	25-578
Riegel	Julie	25-580
Riegel	Julie	25-582
Rife	Douglas	25-584
Ripepi	Frank	25-586
Ripepi	Frank	25-588
Roberson	Nadine	25-590
Robison	Sharon	25-592
Roo	LuAnn	25-594
Russell	Barbara	25-596
Russell	Sherry	25-598

Chapter 25 – Individual Comments by Last Name Nelson-Yates		
Last Name	First Name	Page Number
Salcedo	Miguel	25-600
Sanders	John	25-602
Sandoval	Miriam	25-609
Seydel	Anne	25-611
Shadden	Mary	25-613
Shadle	Kristen	25-616
Shell	Mary	25-618
Sherback	Harvey	25-620
Sherman	Melissa	25-623
Shipping	DiGiorgio	25-625
Shults	Dennis	25-627
Silva	Roshelle	25-629
Simmons	Jaime	25-632
Simmons	Francine	25-634
Simmons	Francine	25-636
Skelton	Don	25-638
Spittler	Sharon	25-640
Stevens	John	25-642
Stiles	Dr. Kathleen	25-644
Stith	Laurie	25-646
Studebaker	Amanda	25-648
Sundstrom	Jeffery	25-650
Taylor	Jamie	25-652
Taylor	Annette	25-654
Terry	Wolfe	25-656
Turnispeed	Michael	25-658
Unger	Lorraine	25-666
Unknown	Unknown	25-668
Unknown	Unknown	25-670
Unknown	Unknown	25-672
Unknown	Unknown	25-674
Unknown		25-676
Unknown	Tony	25-678

Chapter 25 – Individual Comments by Last Name Nelson-Yates		
Last Name	First Name	Page Number
Vangel	Darlene	25-680
Vangel	Darlene	25-682
Vangel	Darlene	25-684
Vangel	Vanessa	25-686
Webb	Charlie	25-690
Whately	Benjamin	25-693
Williams	Kelly	25-695
Wolfe	Terry	25-697
Yang	Sara	25-699
Yates	Jonathan	25-701
Yates	Jonathan	25-703
Yates	Jonathan	25-705
Yates	Jonathan	25-707

Chapter 26 – Public Hearing Comments 12-20-2017		
Last Name	First Name	Page Number
Barro	Mary Helen	26-1
Cohen	Adam	26-4
Cohen	Adam	26-14
Dallas-Dull	Virginia	26-19
Dallas-Dull	Virginia	26-21
Dean	Marvin	26-25
Dean	Marvin	26-27
Descary	Bill	26-31
Foster	Donald	26-34
Gill	Louis	26-37
Glover	Adeyinka	26-40
Greenwood	Eriq	26-44
Hightower	Troy	26-46
Hill III	Nick	26-49
Hughes	Curran	26-54
Kennedy	Michael	26-57
Kennedy	Michael	26-60
Kilgore	Daniel	26-65

Chapter 26 – Public Hearing Comments 12-20-2017		
Last Name	First Name	Page Number
King	Karen	26-67
Ladd	Michael	26-70
Maxwell	Terry	26-72
Nelson	Renee	26-75
Nolan	Annmarie	26-77
Payne	Jeff	26-79
Prince	Albert	26-81
Sampson	Rebecca	26-83
Sampson	Elisabeth	26-85
Sandoval	Cristina	26-87
Starrh	Fred	26-89
Tandy	Alan	26-92
Tandy	Alan	26-94
Vasquez	Frank	26-97
Watson	Lois	26-99
Yates	Jonathan	26-101
Yates	Kaitlyn	26-105

Chapter 27 – References	
References Cited in Responses to Comments	27-1

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