



Northern California Regional Update

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) continues its commitment to conduct public outreach. Here are a few updates this month.

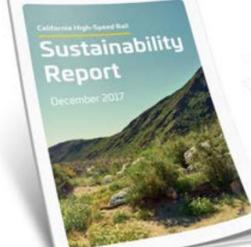
[San Francisco to San Jose](#)

[San Jose to Merced](#)

Statewide Update

High-Speed Rail Continues Leading American Infrastructure with Green Construction and Clean Energy Operations

In December, the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) issued its annual Sustainability Report that updates the progress made in 2017 on the innovative approach it is taking for the design, construction and operation of California's high-speed rail system. The report highlights a range of topics including energy, natural resources, infrastructure, station communities, and business & management.



Key highlights from the Sustainability Report include the following accomplishments:

[Click to Read Full Report](#)

- Recycled 99 percent of all construction materials, including 100 percent of all concrete and steel, keeping 87,100 tons of waste material out of landfills.
- Avoided 13,251 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions through recycling construction materials.
- Continued safe and clean construction practices resulting in no work-related fatalities and air quality on site that was 50 to 60 percent cleaner than an average California construction site.
- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the California Energy Commission to explore the latest in green technology and renewable energy, which will help inform the operations and maintenance of the high-speed rail system.
- Preserved more than 2,000 acres of natural habitat.

2017 Construction in Review Video



High-speed rail continues to make significant progress in the Central Valley in constructing the nation's first high-speed rail system. To commemorate this progress, the Authority released a year-end construction update, highlighting the many milestones that were achieved in 2017. To get the latest information on construction click the button below.

[BuildHSR.com](#)

San Francisco to San Jose Project Section

In the past year, several important project and funding milestones occurred, bringing us all closer to electrification and eventually high-speed rail service from San Francisco to San Jose along the Caltrain Corridor. Below are some of the project highlights:

- Robust outreach goals were achieved in 2017, including holding 148 meetings, presentations, tours, workshops, and open houses aimed at informing and gathering input from city council briefings, neighborhood groups, community working groups, technical working groups, and environmental justice communities throughout the Peninsula Corridor.
- In April, the Authority hosted three Community Open House meetings. The goal of these meetings was to inform the public on the range of alternatives under consideration, update the public on the environmental clearance process and schedule, and provide the public with an opportunity to give input to staff on the project alternatives being analyzed in the environmental document.
- After an initial postponement in May, the Federal Transit Administration approved \$647 million in Full Funding Grant funds for the Caltrain Electrification project. This action reaffirmed the Authority's support for electrification with \$713 million of State Bond and Cap and Trade funds committed to the project.
- In June, the Authority finalized an \$84 million Funding Agreement with the City of San Mateo and Caltrain for the construction of the 25th Avenue Grade Separation Project. A groundbreaking ceremony was held in September to kick off the construction of this important safety-improvement project.
- In July, the Authority joined Caltrain at the Groundbreaking of the Caltrain Electrification Project. Speakers including Governor Jerry Brown, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, House Democratic Leader, Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, Congresswoman Jackie Speier, State Senator Jerry Hill, State Senator Scott Wiener, State Assemblyman Kevin Mullin, and San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee.
- In October, city staff from communities along the Peninsula participated in an alignment tour hosted by the Authority's project team. City staff provided valuable on-site feedback to the project team as design of the high-speed rail project moves forward.
- The Authority hosted five Local Policy Maker Group (LPMG) meetings. Members of the LPMG are provided with updates and given an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback as the project moves forward. Meeting information and Agenda Packets can be found [here](#).
- In November, the Authority released updated environmental milestone dates for the San Francisco to San Jose Project Section that include the following dates:
 - August 2018 Board concurrence on a preferred alternative to be identified in the draft environmental document.
 - January 2019 issuance of the draft environmental document.

In 2018, the Authority will continue working with Caltrain and city/county staff to advance the environmental document for the San Francisco to San Jose project section. This will include public involvement and stakeholder engagement.

San Jose to Merced Project Section

The Authority has made great strides in the San Jose to Merced Section over the course of the past year, particularly in the areas of stakeholder outreach, geotechnical investigations and environmental milestones. Below are some of the project highlights:

- Extensive outreach activities occurred along the alignment throughout 2017, including Community Working Groups, Technical Working Groups and Open Houses.
- The Authority has also hosted delegations from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), updating and guiding federal partners on an alignment tour of the San Jose-Merced project section.
- During 2017, there was substantial geotechnical work to determine geologic conditions along the alignment. In Pacheco Pass, along State Route 152, drilling crews collected rock samples from borings on public right-of-way, where the Authority is planning to tunnel through part of the Diablo Mountain Range to connect the system from San Jose to Merced. This geotechnical work is necessary to better determine soil conditions along the alignment and supports future engineering, environmental work and procurements.
- In November, the Authority released updated environmental milestone dates for the San Jose to Merced Project Section that include the following:
 - May 2018 - Board concurrence on a preferred alternative to be identified in the draft environmental document.
 - October 2018 - Issuance of the draft environmental document.

In 2018, the Authority will continue community outreach along the San Jose to Merced Project Section and enthusiastically participate in public meetings in collaboration with local stakeholders, city partners and community groups in various forums throughout 2018

If you are interested in inviting us to your community meeting to receive a project update, our team would be happy to coordinate with you. Feel free to contact us here:

Via Email:

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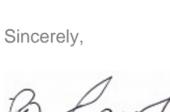
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Sincerely,



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