



MEDIA ALERT MEDIA ALERT MEDIA ALERT MEDIA ALERT

Public Input Sought at March 18, 25 and 26 Scoping Meetings in Merced, San Jose and Gilroy on Proposed California High-Speed Train System

- WHAT:** The California High-Speed Rail Authority is holding scoping meetings in Merced, San Jose, Gilroy to support the project environmental review process for the San Jose to Merced section of the high-speed train (HST) system. Scoping meetings are open house format. People can drop by at any time to get information, ask questions and provide input. Team members will be available throughout the session to respond to questions, and a variety of maps and exhibits will be available for review.
- WHEN & WHERE:**
- Merced**
March 18, 3:00-7:00 p.m.
Merced Community Senior Center
755 W. 15th Street
(Joint scoping meeting with the Bakersfield to Merced Section)
- San Jose**
March 25, 3:00-7:00 p.m.
Roosevelt Community Center, Community Room B
901 E. Santa Clara Street
- Gilroy**
March 26, 3:00-7:00 p.m.
Gilroy Hilton Garden Inn
Ballroom A
6070 Monterey Road
- WHY:** A project Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/EIS) is being prepared to assess the technical studies, impact analysis and mitigation measures described in the Bay Area to Central Valley program EIR/EIS (approved in July 2008) and provide the more detailed level of analysis required before construction can begin. Planned scoping meetings along the proposed corridor will give members of the public and public agencies an opportunity to learn more about the project, ask questions and provide input.
- ABOUT THE SAN JOSE TO MERCED SECTION:** The proposed alignment for the San Jose to Merced project generally follows the Caltrain/Union Pacific Railroad corridor from San Jose to Gilroy. From Gilroy, the corridor extends east through the Pacheco Pass, generally following State Route 152, and then along Henry Miller Road to Chowchilla to connect with the Bakersfield to Merced section of the HST system. Stations are proposed in San Jose (Diridon Station), Gilroy, and downtown Merced. The preferred station location in the city of Gilroy is the current Caltrain Station.
- BACKGROUND:** The California High-Speed Rail Authority is responsible for building the proposed high-speed train service that would cover 800 miles and reach speeds up to 220 m.p.h. With the passage of Proposition 1A in the November 2008 ballot, California voters approved funding for the nation's first high-speed train system. By linking major cities in California with a new transportation option, a high-speed train system would increase mobility while cutting air pollution and reducing the greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming. For more information, visit www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov.
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