



California High-Speed Rail BRIEFING: August 24, 2023 Board Meeting Agenda Item #3

TO: Board Chair Richards and Board Members

FROM: Boris Lipkin, Northern California Regional Director

DATE: August 24, 2023

RE: Northern California Regional Update

Summary

Information Item to update the Board of Directors on activities in Northern California.

Background

In 2022, the Authority achieved a major milestone in Northern California by completing environmental clearance for the region's approximately 135 miles that spans from the Salesforce Transit Center in San Francisco to the Central Valley Wye in Merced County. The Authority has applied for federal funding to advance the design and complete geotechnical investigations on the San Jose to Merced segment and is waiting to hear back on grant awards. In the meantime, the Authority has maintained its strong regional partnerships, including collaborative efforts such as Caltrain Electrification (which is expected to start revenue service in 2024), the Diridon Integrated Station Concept in San Jose, and The Portal (formerly known as the Downtown Extension Project), which will extend the rail corridor to the Salesforce Transit Center in San Francisco.

Staff continues to maintain stakeholder relationships throughout the region and is finding innovative ways to engage the general public with regular outreach. This item is intended to provide an overview of regional activities since last year's board action in approving the environmental documents in Northern California.

Prior Board Action

Significant Board Actions related to Northern California include the following:

1. **Resolution #HSRA 12-11**, which established the blended system on the Caltrain corridor as part of the implementation of high-speed rail on the San Francisco Peninsula
2. **Resolution #HSRA 12-24**, which certified the Bay Area to Central Valley 2010 Revised Final Program EIR and associated actions.

3. **Resolution #HSRA 13-02**, which approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Caltrain for the advancement of the blended system.
4. **Resolution #HSRA 16-21**, which approved an additional funding agreement for the Caltrain Electrification Project.
5. **Resolution #HSRA 16-22**, which approved the Authority's contribution toward the San Mateo Grade Separation Project.
6. **Resolution #HSRA 16-29**, which approved the Peninsula Corridor Funding Plan and Associated Independent Consultant Report.
7. **Resolution #HSRA 17-11**, which approved the Authority becoming a member of the Transbay Joint Powers Authority.
8. **Resolution #HSRA 19-05**, which identified Alternative 4 as the CEQA Preferred Alternative in the San José to Merced Project Section for the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement
9. **Resolution #HSRA 19-06**, which identified Alternative 4 as the NEPA Preferred Alternative in the San José to Merced Project Section for the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement
10. **Resolution #HSRA 19-07**, which identified Alternative A as the CEQA Preferred Alternative in the San Francisco to San José Project Section for the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement
11. **Resolution #HSRA 19-08**, which identified Alternative A as the NEPA Preferred Alternative in the San Francisco to San José Project Section for the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement
12. **Resolution #HSRA 22-10**, which certified the San Jose to Merced Project Section Final EIR/EIS was completed in compliance with CEQA
13. **Resolution #HSRA 22-11**, which adopted the CEQA Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations for the San Jose to Merced Project Section
14. **Resolution #HSRA 22-12**, which directed the Chief Executive Officer to Issue a NEPA Record of Decision for the San Jose to Merced Project Section
15. **Resolution #HSRA 22-19**, which certified the San Francisco to San Jose Project Section Final EIR/EIS was completed in compliance with CEQA
16. **Resolution #HSRA 22-20**, which adopted the CEQA Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations for the San Francisco to San Jose Project Section
17. **Resolution #HSRA 22-21**, which directed the Chief Executive Officer to Issue a NEPA Record of Decision for the San Francisco to San Jose Project Section

Discussion

This information item provides an update on activities in the Northern California Region. The presentation will include:

1. Updates on activity following the Board's approval of the environmental documents for the San Francisco to San Jose and San Jose to Merced project sections
2. An overview of the Authority's partnerships in the region including:
 - a. Salesforce Transit Center and The Portal (formerly Downtown Extension) in San Francisco
 - b. Caltrain Electrification
 - c. Diridon Integrated Station Concept Plan – Business Case
 - d. Gilroy Station Area Planning Workshops
 - e. Grade Separations
3. Updates on recent Outreach activities in the region

Legal Approval

The Legal Office has reviewed, and this item complies with Authority policy.

Budget and Fiscal Impact

This is an informational item on the Northern California Region, and by itself, does not have a budget or fiscal impact.

REVIEWER INFORMATION	SIGNATURE
Reviewer Name and Title: Brian Annis Chief Financial Officer	Signature verifying budget analysis:
Reviewer Name and Title: Alicia Fowler Chief Legal Counsel	Signature verifying legal analysis:

Recommendations

This is an informational item.

Attachments

Presentation