



California High-Speed Rail BRIEFING: September 26, 2024 Northern California Regional Update Agenda Item # 2

TO: Board Chair Richards and Board Members
FROM: Boris Lipkin, Northern California Regional Director
DATE: September 26, 2024
RE: Northern California Regional Update

Summary

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

Background

Since the last Northern California update to the Board in August 2023, the Northern California team has continued to pursue the funding needed to advance the project in the region while furthering its collaboration on multi-agency efforts that will lay the groundwork for high-speed rail. Since achieving environmental clearance in Northern California in 2022, the Authority has worked to resolve the remaining challenges to those environmental documents and prepare for advancing the work (including advanced design and geotechnical investigations in Pacheco Pass) when funds become available. In August 2024, the Authority reached Settlement Agreements with the City of Brisbane and the Grasslands Water District. Additionally, the Northern California team has maintained its strong regional partnerships, including collaborative efforts such as Caltrain Electrification (which started revenue service this month), The Portal (formerly known as the Downtown Extension Project), which will extend the rail corridor to the Salesforce Transit Center in San Francisco, Diridon Station Planning, and Gilroy Station Area Planning.

Staff continues to maintain stakeholder relationships throughout the region and is finding innovative ways to engage the public with regular outreach and strengthening our media relationships and social media presence. This item is intended to provide an overview of regional activities since last year's update to the Board in August 2023.

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. A regional overview and information on progress since last year's update.
2. An overview of the Authority's partnerships in the region including:
 - a. The Portal (formerly Downtown Extension) in San Francisco
 - b. Caltrain Electrification
 - c. Diridon Station Planning
 - d. Gilroy Station Area Planning
 - e. San Jose to Merced Wildlife Working Group
3. Updates on recent outreach activities in the region and social media highlights

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: Natalie Daniel Acting Chief Financial Officer	Signature verifying budget analysis: Signed 9/18 original signature on file
Reviewer Name and Title: Alicia Fowler Chief Counsel	Signature verifying legal analysis: Signed 9/18 original signature on file

Recommendations

This is an informational item.

Attachments

Presentation