



California High-Speed Rail **BRIEFING: January 23, 2025 Agenda Item # 4**

TO: Chairman Richards and Board Members

FROM: Derek Boughton, Reporting Branch Chief

DATE: January 23, 2025

RE: 2024 Economic Impact Analysis

Summary

As of June 2023, the Authority has generated \$21.8 billion in Economic Output through the investments made delivering the nation's first high-speed rail project.

Background

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (the Authority) is delivering the nation's first high-speed train project (the Program) and is generating economic impacts in California through the Program's substantial investments in planning and constructing the project. The economic activity associated with the expenditures attributable to the Program supports tens of thousands of jobs across all functions, from planning and environmental clearance to engineering and construction. This significant employment, along with substantial expenditures for goods and services across industries, generates considerable economic impacts throughout California and beyond. Importantly, the impacts are felt throughout many Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) in California including the Central Valley.

Measures of the economic impacts associated with the Authority's investments have been documented since 2017, with measured impacts since July 2006 and updated annually.

This report, the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (FY 2023-24) Economic Impact Analysis, provides updated calculations of the economic impacts resulting from Authority spending that took place over the time period of July 2023 through June 2024. Starting with a detailed analysis of Program direct spending, these costs are aggregated and assigned to appropriate industry sectors to calculate the associated economic impacts at the statewide level. Then, utilizing contract-level historical invoice cost data from the past three (3) fiscal years, geographic spending profiles that allocate share of spend by zip code and professional service contract are created and applied to the full contract spend amounts in FY 2023-24.

Methodology

The range of economic impacts are estimated using multiple industry-standard approaches that lead to a customized geographic economic impact modeling using economic the modeling software IMPLAN.

To confirm this methodology and its assumptions, the Authority has previously received review and validation from multiple industry experts both within and outside of state government who reviewed inputs, assumptions, methodology, and outputs associated with the 2017 Analysis. The reviewers confirmed the validity of the models and assumptions used and provided valuable feedback which was incorporated into the reports. These reviews included experts from the University of the Pacific’s Center for Business and Policy Research, the California High-Speed Rail Peer Review Group, the Department of Finance, and the Employment Development Department. Since the same general methodology was followed for the subsequent update analyses, the expert validation remains applicable.

Discussion

The Analysis presents the economic impacts in terms of:

- Job-Years - represents a combination of total jobs and the length of time of those jobs. For example, one job supported for five years equals five job-years; five jobs supported for one year also equals five job-years.
- Labor Income - includes all forms of employment income, including compensation (wages, benefits, and payroll taxes) firms paid to employees, and income earned by self-employed workers or unincorporated sole proprietorships.
- Economic Output - represents the total economic activity—including economic “value-add”— by businesses and individuals in California resulting from project expenditures.
 - *Direct impacts* - the economic effects generated by direct spending on a project.
 - *Indirect impacts* - the economic effects that occur in the next step in the supply chain (dispersed among the industries that supply intermediate goods and services to firms with direct impacts).
 - *Induced impacts* - are the economic effects that result when income earned by direct and indirect employees gets spent elsewhere in the economy.

As shown on the table below, the Authority’s \$13 billion in program investments from July 2006 to June 2024 has supported total direct, indirect, and induced jobs of 109,000 and generated \$21.8 billion in total economic activity.

Cumulative California Economic Impacts, July 2006 – June 2024*

Impact	Job-Years	Labor Income	Economic Output
Direct	54,000	\$4.6B	\$11B
Indirect	24,000	\$2B	\$5.2B
Induced	31,000	\$1.8B	\$5.5B
Total	109,000	\$8.3 B	\$21.8 B

**Totals may not sum due to rounding*

The vast majority of this economic activity has taken place in the State of California, with 99% of 2023-24 investment expended to companies and workers in the state. For Fiscal Year 2023-24 specifically, the job years of employment was 16,600; the labor income was \$1.3 billion, and the economic output was \$3.4 billion.



Program investments continue to have significant positive impact on the Central Valley economy, generating an estimated 51,860 job years of employment and about \$9.7 billion in total economic activity from July 2006 to June 2024. The Sacramento region also continues to show significant impact because of direct Authority expenditures at its Sacramento headquarters and other regional spending, with 16,580 total job-years and \$2.9




billion in total economic output. Additionally, the Bay Area and Southern California regions show significant impacts derived primarily from engineering and other professional service firms based there, as well as an increasing number of construction firms from those areas, with 10,280 total job-years and \$2.5 billion in total economic output, and 16,230 job-years and \$3.3 billion in total economic output, respectively.

Around 61% of the \$13 billion program investment in the system through June 2024 occurred in designated disadvantaged communities throughout California, spurring economic activity in these areas. This includes over 70% of all FY 2023-24 investment occurring in Disadvantaged Communities.

HSR Project Segment Impact Forecast*

In addition to measuring the economic impact of the annual expenditures related to Authority activities for 2022-23, the 2023 Analysis includes an updated evaluation of the economic impact of the total programmed capital outlay expenditures for each environmental section within Phase 1 and for the Program.

Project Section 	Total Employment (Job-Year) 	Total Labor Income (\$B)	Total Economic Output (\$B)
San Francisco to San Jose	59,000	\$4.9	\$12.8
San Jose to Merced	188,000	\$15.5	\$40.6
Merced to Fresno	155,000	\$13.2	\$32.3
Fresno to Bakersfield	175,000	\$14.8	\$37.0
Bakersfield to Palmdale	164,000	\$13.5	\$35.8
Palmdale to Burbank	249,000	\$20.5	\$53.1
Burbank to LA Union Station	18,000	\$1.5	\$3.8
LA Union Station to Anaheim	27,000	\$2.3	\$5.8

Project Stage 	Total Employment (Job-Year) 	Total Labor Income (\$B)	Total Economic Output (\$B) 
Merced to Bakersfield**	333,000	\$28.2	\$70.3
Valley to Valley Expansion	201,000	\$16.8	\$43.9
Valley to Valley Subtotal	534,000	\$45.0	\$114.1
Phase 1 Buildout	500,000	\$41.3	\$107.7
Total Phase 1	1,034,000	\$86.3	\$221.8

*Totals may not sum due to rounding

**Merced to Bakersfield includes Phase 1 balance Environmental Clearance and Bookends costs.

As the investment in high-speed rail infrastructure grows over time, so too will the economic effects associated with it.

Legal Approval

The Legal Office has reviewed this item and it is in compliance with Authority policy.

Budget and Fiscal Impact

This is an informational item on the 2024 Economic Impact Analysis, and by itself, does not have a budget or fiscal impact.

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

Recommendations

This item is informational only; there are no recommended actions at this time.