



Southern Railhead Project

The California High-Speed Rail Authority's (Authority) Southern Railhead Project is an important step in building California's future high-speed rail system. The project supports the next phase of construction and brings the state closer to passenger service.

What Is a Railhead?

A railhead is a facility where construction materials and equipment are delivered by train, stored, and then sent out to active construction areas.



About the Southern Railhead

Less than a year after the project kicked off, the Authority completed installation of railhead track at the 150-acre Southern Railhead site near Wasco, California. This is the first railhead built for the California high-speed rail program.



Aerial view of Southern Railhead site

The Southern Railhead acts as a central hub for receiving and moving the materials needed to build the future electrified high-speed rail system.

By connecting to the national freight rail network, materials and equipment can be delivered from other states and efficiently transported to construction sites across the Central Valley, where 119 miles of the system are currently under construction.

Railhead Site Features

When fully operational, the Southern Railhead site will include:

- Temporary freight tracks for incoming and outgoing trains
- A rail storage yard
- Areas to store construction materials
- A control office to help ensure the safe movement of trains, equipment, and workers
- Additional facilities such as workshops, office space, and maintenance areas

The site will also include about 10 miles of temporary siding and storage tracks built in

partnership with BNSF Railway. These tracks connect directly to the national freight rail network, making it easier to receive materials and equipment and deliver them to construction areas throughout the Central Valley.

High-Speed Rail Track Progress

Construction is moving forward across the Central Valley, with more than 50 structures already completed.

The Authority is preparing for the next phase of work by advancing track and electrical system construction. A request for proposals for track and overhead contact system construction has been issued, with a contract expected to be awarded in 2026.

The Authority has also released invitations for bids for key materials including ballast, overhead contact system poles, long welded rail, and concrete ties that will be used in the Central Valley construction segment. Additional procurement opportunities are planned as construction continues.



BNSF railcars on Southern Railhead tracks



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