



CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL **RESOLUTION #20-07**

Merced to Fresno Section: Central Valley Wye

**Adoption of CEQA Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations,
Adoption of Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program,
Approval of SR 152 (North) to Road 11 Wye Alternative**

Whereas, the Authority has certified the Merced to Fresno Section: Central Valley Wye Final Supplemental EIR/EIS for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) in Resolution #HSRA 20-06 and hereby incorporates by reference the defined terms and statements contained in that Resolution;

Whereas, the Final Supplemental EIR/EIS evaluates the impacts and benefits of implementing four Central Valley Wye alternatives, each of which connects to the north-south Hybrid alignment portion of the Merced to Fresno Section the Board approved in 2012 in Resolution #HSRA 12-20;

Whereas, the Final Supplemental EIR/EIS identifies the SR 152 (North) to Road 11 Wye Alternative as the “Preferred Alternative” for the Central Valley Wye portion of the Merced to Fresno Section, which is generally depicted on the map attached hereto as Exhibit “AA”.

Therefore, it is resolved:

Section 1. Adoption of CEQA Findings of Fact, Statement of Overriding Considerations and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

(a) As the decision-making body for the high-speed rail system, the Board has reviewed and considered the information contained in the Merced to Fresno Section: Central Valley Wye Final Supplemental EIR/EIS and in the CEQA Findings of Fact attached hereto as Exhibit “A” and supporting documentation. The Authority has also considered the 2012 Merced to Fresno Section Final EIR/EIS as revised by the Final Supplemental EIR/EIS. The Authority determines that the CEQA Findings of Fact document identifies the significant environmental impacts and mitigation measures associated with the Preferred Alternative. The Authority further finds that the CEQA Findings of Fact have been completed in compliance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. The Authority hereby approves and adopts the CEQA Findings of Fact attached hereto as Exhibit “A”.

(b) The Authority hereby finds that the Statement of Overriding Considerations was completed in accordance with Public Resources Code section 21081 and State CEQA Guidelines section 15093, subdivision (a), which states that CEQA requires the decision-making agency to balance, as applicable, the economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits of a proposed project against its unavoidable environmental impacts when determining whether to approve the project. The Statement of Overriding Considerations is included in the Findings of Fact attached hereto as Exhibit “A” and sets forth significant

770 L Street, Suite 620, Sacramento, CA 95814 • T: (916) 324-1541 • F: (916) 322-0827

For further information, visit the California High-Speed Rail Authority web site at <http://www.hsr.ca.gov/>

environmental effects that are found to be unavoidable, but are acceptable due to the overriding considerations associated with and benefits expected to result from implementing the Preferred Alternative as part of the Merced to Fresno Section, including benefits as part of the statewide high-speed rail system and benefits as part of an initial high-speed rail service in the Central Valley. The Authority hereby approves and adopts the Statement of Overriding Considerations included in the Findings of Fact attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

(c) Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21081.6, and State CEQA Guidelines section 15091, subdivision (d), the Authority hereby adopts the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) attached hereto as Exhibit "B" (entitled Mitigation Monitoring and Enforcement Plan), which describes the mitigation measures the Authority will implement, or will require to be implemented, as part of the Preferred Alternative.

Section 2. Approval of the Preferred Alternative (SR 152 (North) to Road 11 Wye).

Based on and in consideration of all of the foregoing, the Authority hereby approves all high-speed rail facilities described in the Final Supplemental EIR/EIS associated with the Preferred Alternative, as generally depicted on the map attached hereto as Exhibit "AA" and as described in detail in the Final Supplemental EIR/EIS, and conditioned on the mitigation measures described in the Findings of Fact attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and reflected in the MMRP attached hereto as Exhibit "B", and which MMRP shall be a condition of the approved project. The Authority affirms that it is deferring a decision on a heavy maintenance facility at this time.

Section 3. Next Steps.

The Authority hereby directs staff as follows:

- a. To promptly file a CEQA Notice of Determination with the State Clearinghouse.
- b. To take any other necessary steps to obtain all permits, approvals, and rights that would allow for construction and operation.
- c. To continue to work in partnership with Madera County, the City of Chowchilla, the Community of Fairmead, Chowchilla Elementary School District, and other regional stakeholders as the Central Valley Wye portion of the Merced to Fresno Section is implemented.

Vote: 9

Yes: Richards; Schenk; Camacho; Miller; Perea; Ghielmetti; Escutia; Butros; Williams

No: 0

Absent: N/A

Date: September 10, 2020

o000o