



# PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY / NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

## *California High-Speed Rail – Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section*

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) announces the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section of the California High-Speed Rail Project.

**The Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section Draft EIR/EIS and associated documents will be available to the public on February 28, 2020.**

**The Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section Draft EIR/EIS is available online in PDF at the Authority website ([www.hsr.ca.gov](http://www.hsr.ca.gov)) or you can request an electronic copy by calling (866) 300-3044.**

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being or have been carried out by the State of California pursuant to 23 U.S. Code 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated July 23, 2019, and executed by the Federal Railroad Administration and the State of California. Under that MOU, the Authority is the project's lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

### PROPOSED PROJECT AND LOCATION

A Statewide Program EIR/EIS (Tier 1) was completed in November 2005 as the first phase of a tiered environmental review process for the proposed California high-speed rail (HSR) system planned to provide a reliable high-speed electric-powered rail system that links the major metropolitan areas of the state and that delivers predictable and consistent travel times. A further objective is to provide an interface with commercial airports, mass transit, and the highway network and to relieve capacity constraints of the existing transportation system as increases in intercity travel demand in California occur, in a manner sensitive to and protective of California's unique natural resources. The Authority has prepared a Draft EIR/EIS that further examines the Bakersfield to Palmdale Section at the project level (Tier 2), within Kern and Los Angeles counties. The Draft EIR/EIS examines construction and operation of a grade-separated, dedicated double-track, electric powered, passenger, steel-wheel-on-steel-rail, high-speed railroad between Bakersfield and Palmdale, including a station in Bakersfield (approved by the Authority under the California Environmental Quality Act [CEQA] in October 2018 and under NEPA in November 2019) and a station in Palmdale.

This Draft EIR/EIS describes a no-project alternative and four HSR alternatives (including alignments, stations, and maintenance facilities and identifies potential impacts, benefits, and mitigation measures). Alternative 2 with the Refined César Chávez National Monument Design Option is the Authority's preferred alternative and the proposed project under CEQA.

The Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section is approximately 80 miles in length and traverses valley, mountain, and high desert terrain, as well as urban, rural, and agricultural lands. From the north, this project section begins at the Bakersfield Station and traverses south and southeast through the Tehachapi Mountains, then descends into the Antelope Valley where it terminates at the Palmdale Station in the south.

### **ANTICIPATED IMPACTS**

Significant pre-mitigation environmental effects resulting from the Bakersfield to Palmdale alternatives are anticipated in the following resource areas: transportation (construction impacts); air quality (construction impacts); noise and vibration (construction and operation impacts); electromagnetic fields and electromagnetic interference (construction and operation impacts); public utilities and energy (operation impacts); biological resources and wetlands (construction and operation impacts); hydrology and water resources (construction and operation impacts); hazardous materials and wastes (construction impacts); safety and security (construction and operation impacts); socioeconomics and communities (construction and operation impacts); station planning, land use, and development (construction impacts); agricultural lands (construction impacts); parks, recreation, and open space (construction and operation impacts); aesthetics and visual resources (construction impacts); and cultural resources (construction and operation impacts).

### **HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES**

The project would cross one parcel that includes a site on hazardous waste lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code. This site is Air Force Plant 42 (US Air Force Installation Restoration Program (IRP) Site SS008 – Fuel Transfer Area, Air Force Plant 42, Palmdale, CA).

### **PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD**

The Authority is making this Draft EIR/EIS available in accordance with CEQA and NEPA for a minimum 45-day review and comment period. During the comment period, written comments may be submitted in the following ways:

- Via mail to “Bakersfield to Palmdale Draft EIR/EIS Comment”, 770 L Street, Suite 620 MS-1, Sacramento, CA 95814;
- Through the Authority’s website ([www.hsr.ca.gov](http://www.hsr.ca.gov));
- Via email to [Bakersfield\\_Palmdale@hsr.ca.gov](mailto:Bakersfield_Palmdale@hsr.ca.gov) with the subject line “Draft EIR/EIS Comment”.

The comment period is from February 28 to April 13, 2020. Comments must be received electronically or postmarked on or before April 13, 2020.

The Authority will prepare a Final EIR/EIS, which will include responses to comments received.

### **COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSES AND PUBLIC HEARING**

The Authority invites you to attend the community open houses and the public hearing that have been scheduled to receive comments from the public and public agencies on the Draft EIR/EIS and the HSR alternatives it discusses. The public hearing will include a short open house portion and presentation regarding the Draft EIR/EIS comment process, then a public hearing during which members of the public can formally submit an oral comment on the Draft EIR/EIS. Written comments may also be submitted at the open houses and the hearing. *Interpretes al español estarán en las reuniones.* The meeting facilities are accessible for persons with disabilities. All requests for reasonable accommodations and/or language services must be submitted 72 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting date. Please contact the public outreach team at 888-481-2772 or call the California Relay Service at 711. All public hearings will be wheelchair accessible. Below is a list of open house and hearing dates and locations:

#### **Community Open Houses**

**Lancaster: March 4, 5:30-7:30 p.m.** – Jane Reynolds Park, Activity Center, 716 Oldfield St, Lancaster, CA, 93534  
**Bakersfield: March 5, 5:30–7:30 p.m.** – Edison Middle School Gym, 721 S. Edison Road, Bakersfield, CA, 93307

#### **Community Event**

**Rosamond: March 26, 5:30-7:00 p.m.** – Rosamond Public Library, 3611 Rosamond Blvd, Rosamond, CA, 93560

## Public Hearing

**Lancaster: April 9, 3:00–8:00 p.m.**— Sgt. Steve Owen Memorial Park, Stanley Kleiner Activity Building, 43063 N. 10th Street, West Lancaster, CA 93534

Please check the Authority website ([www.hsr.ca.gov](http://www.hsr.ca.gov)), for more information, including up-to-date information on the planned hearing.

### COPIES OF THE DRAFT EIR/EIS

Visit the Authority website ([www.hsr.ca.gov](http://www.hsr.ca.gov)) where you may view and download the Draft EIR/EIS. You may also request an electronic copy of the Draft EIR/EIS by calling (866) 300-3044.

Print and electronic copies of the Draft EIR/EIS and electronic copies of associated technical reports have been placed in the public libraries in the following areas: Bakersfield (701 Truxtun Avenue, 200 West China Grade Loop, 1400 Baker Street, 1801 Panorama Drive [Grace Van Dyke Bird Library], 9001 Stockdale Highway [Walter W. Stiern Library], 1901 Wilson Road, 506 E. Brundage Lane, 3725 Columbus Street, and 8301 Ming Avenue), Lancaster (3041 W. Avenue K [Antelope Valley College Library] and 601 W. Lancaster Boulevard), Mojave (15555 O Street), Palmdale (16921 E. Avenue O [#A] and 700 E. Palmdale Boulevard), Quartz Hill (5040 W. Avenue M 2), Rosamond (3611 Rosamond Boulevard), Tehachapi (212 S. Green Street).

Printed copies of the Draft EIR/EIS and electronic copies of associated technical reports also are available for review during business hours at the Authority's offices at 770 L Street, Suite 620, Sacramento, CA and 355 S. Grand Avenue, Suite 2050, Los Angeles. Electronic copies of the technical reports are also available on request by calling the Authority office at (866) 300-3044.

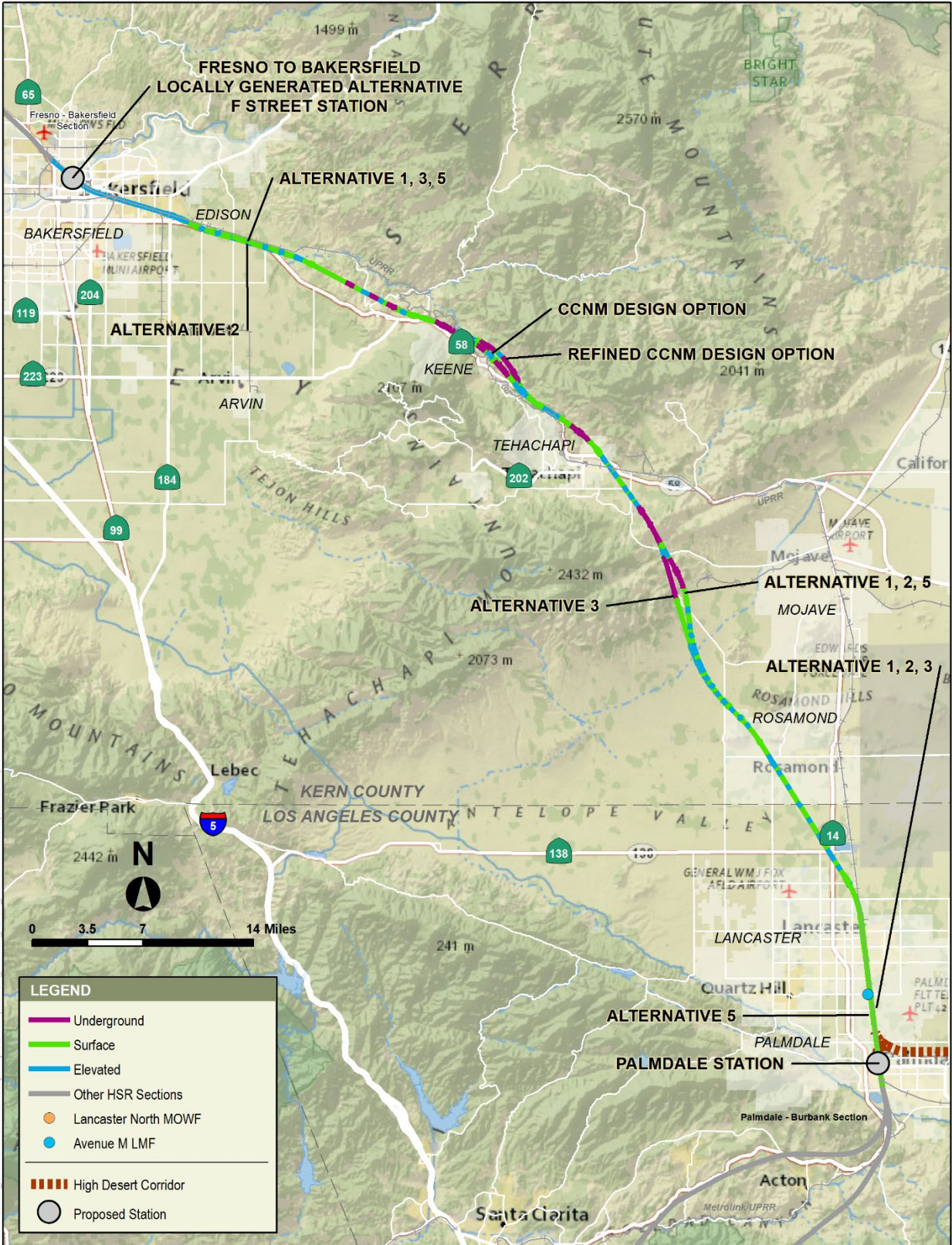
### COPIES OF DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The Draft EIR/EIS incorporates by reference the following environmental documents, which may be reviewed on the Authority's website at [www.hsr.ca.gov](http://www.hsr.ca.gov): Fresno to Bakersfield Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (2017); Fresno to Bakersfield Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (2018); Fresno to Bakersfield Combined Supplemental Record of Decision and Final Supplemental EIS on the Locally Generated Alternative (2019). These documents are also available for review during business hours at the Authority's offices at 770 L Street, Suite 620, Sacramento, CA and electronically at 355 S. Grand Avenue, Suite 2050, Los Angeles. Electronic copies of these documents are available upon request by calling the Authority office at (866) 300-3044.

### COPIES OF TIER 1 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS

The Final Program EIR/EIS for the Proposed California High-Speed Train System (2005), the Final Program EIR/EIS for the Bay Area to Central Valley High-Speed Train (2008), and the Partially Revised Final Program EIR for the Bay Area to Central Valley High-Speed Train (2012) may be reviewed at the Authority's offices during business hours at: 770 L Street, Suite 620, Sacramento, CA 95814 and electronically at 355 S. Grand Avenue, Suite 2050, Los Angeles, CA 90071. Electronic copies of these documents are available upon request by calling the Authority office at (866) 300-3044.

The Authority does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities.



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