



PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF CHANGE TO PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD AND 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) is notifying you that the public review period and the public hearing for the Bakersfield to Palmdale Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) have changed. The public review period was scheduled to end on April 13, 2020; however, due to complications caused by the novel coronavirus (herein referred to as COVID-19), the Authority has decided to extend the public review period 15 days to April 28, 2020. The Authority has also changed the date and format of the public hearing from an in-person public hearing on April 9, 2020 to a “virtual” public hearing on April 23, 2020.

The Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section Draft EIR/EIS public review period will now end on April 28, 2020 and the public hearing will now be held online on April 23, 2020 from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Following the outbreak of COVID-19 in California (and globally), on March 17, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom announced directives to address the need to slow the spread of COVID-19 including prohibiting gatherings of any size. In addition, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20 on March 19, 2020, which orders all individuals living in the State of California to stay home or at their place of residence, effective immediately and until further notice. The Authority has taken the measures outlined below to promote compliance with these directives.

EXTENSION OF PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD

The Draft EIR/EIS was originally made available for a minimum 45-day public review beginning on February 28, 2020 and ending on April 13, 2020 under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Due to the uncertainty caused by the outbreak of COVID-19, the Authority has elected to extend the public review period for the Draft EIR/EIS 15 days to April 28, 2020. This extension will provide members of the public and key stakeholders additional time to review the Draft EIR/EIS and submit a comment. It will also provide additional time for individuals to request access to the Draft EIR/EIS.

PUBLIC HEARING FORMAT AND ACCESS; PUBLIC HEARING DATE

In order to comply with the Governor’s directives and Executive Order N-33-20, and to protect public health, the traditional in-person format of the public hearing will be changed to a “virtual” public hearing held online and via telephone. The virtual public hearing will include a webcast and moderated call-in number for the public to submit oral comments. Oral comments provided via telephone will be recorded by an official court reporter. *Interpretes al español estarán en la reunión.* The public hearing will be held on April 23, 2020.

Detailed access information for the virtual public hearing will be sent out to individuals on the Authority’s electronic mailing list, and also will be posted on the Authority’s website (www.hsr.ca.gov). To be added to the Authority’s electronic mailing list for this project section, or to receive the meeting details via telephone, please contact the Authority at (866) 300-3044.

All requests for reasonable accommodations and/or language services must be submitted 72 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting date; for this hearing, all requests for accommodations must be submitted by 3 p.m. on April 20, 2020. Please contact the Authority at (866) 300-3044 or call the California Relay Service at 711.

COMMENTING ON THE DRAFT EIR/EIS

In addition to commenting on the Draft EIR/EIS at the public hearing on April 23 (noted above), you can submit a comment in the following ways:

- Via mail to ATTN: Bakersfield to Palmdale Draft EIR/EIS, California High-Speed Rail Authority, 770 L Street, Suite 620 MS-1, Sacramento, CA 95814;
- Via the web comment form on the Authority's Bakersfield to Palmdale Draft EIR/EIS website: https://hsr.ca.gov/programs/environmental/eis_eir/draft_bakersfield_palmdale_comment.aspx
- Via email to Bakersfield_Palmdale@hsr.ca.gov with the subject line "Bakersfield to Palmdale Draft EIR/EIS Comment"

The comment period for this Draft EIR/EIS began on February 28, 2020 and now ends on April 28, 2020. Comments must be received electronically or postmarked on or before April 28, 2020.

After the public review period ends, the Authority will prepare a Final EIR/EIS, which will include responses to all of the comments received on the Draft EIR/EIS.

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

COPIES OF THE DRAFT EIR/EIS

Visit the Authority's website (www.hsr.ca.gov) to view and download the Draft EIR/EIS. You may also request copies of the Draft EIR/EIS and/or technical reports by calling the Authority 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 (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). Copies of these documents are available upon request by calling the Authority at (866) 300-3044.

COPIES OF TIER 1 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS

Copies of 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) are available upon request by calling the Authority at (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.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding 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 NEPA.

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.