California High-Speed Rail Authority Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section

January 2020

Draft Project Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement

Appendix 8-A: Bakersfield to Palmdale Alignment Alternatives Analysis



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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.

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Table 8-A-1 Bakersfield to Palmdale Alignment Alternatives Analysis

Measurement Criteria	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 5	CCNM Design Option	Refined CCNM Design Option
Constructability				·		
Total alignment miles, Bakersfield to Palmdale	79.8–81.3 miles	79.8–81.3 miles	79.7–81.2 miles	79.8–81.3 miles	+ 124 linear feet	+ 844 linear feet
Tunnel length	Total length: 5.4 miles	Total length: 5.4 miles	Total length: 6.3 miles	Total length: 5.4 miles	+ 0.1 miles	+ 1.46 miles
Capital costs	\$13.7 billion	\$13.9 billion	\$14.1 billion	\$13.4 billion	+ 102 million	+307 million
Constructability	SR 58 realignment in Edison	SR 58 will not be realigned, but HSR alignment will require two elevated structures over SR 58: at SR 58/ Edison Road interchange and SR 58/ Towerline Road	SR 58 realignment in Edison	SR 58 realignment in Edison	No change	SR 58 realignment just north of Tehachapi
	Requires realignment of Sierra Highway south of Avenue K, in Lancaster	Requires realignment of Sierra Highway south of Avenue K, in Lancaster	Requires realignment of Sierra Highway south of Avenue K, in Lancaster	Sierra Highway realignment in Lancaster to avoid UPRR and Metrolink facilities	No change	No change
	Requires viaduct over Los Angeles Aqueduct	Requires viaduct over Los Angeles Aqueduct	Requires viaduct over Los Angeles Aqueduct	Requires viaduct over Los Angeles Aqueduct	No change	No change
	Construction around Kern#1 Transmission Line	Construction around Kern#1 Transmission Line	Construction around Kern#1 Transmission Line	Construction around Kern#1 Transmission Line	-	-
Path	Sierra Highway Bike Path realignment in Lancaster	 Sierra Highway Bike Path realignment in Lancaster 	• Sierra Highway Bike Path realignment in Lancaster	• Sierra Highway Bike Path realignment in Lancaster		
	 Avenue K-8 Bike Path realignment in Lancaster 	 Avenue K-8 Bike Path realignment in Lancaster 	 Avenue K-8 Bike Path realignment in Lancaster 	 Avenue K-8 Bike Path realignment in Lancaster 		
	59 grade separations	52 grade separations	58 grade separations	59 grade separations	-	-

Measurement Criteria	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 5	CCNM Design Option	Refined CCNM Design Option
	Realign approximately 845 linear feet of the Pacific Crest Trail. The HSR alignment would be immediately adjacent to and in an aerial alignment (1,500-foot- long viaduct) above the trail. The proposed viaduct would span the trail with a 19.1-foot clearance.	Realign approximately 845 linear feet of the Pacific Crest Trail. The HSR alignment would be immediately adjacent to and in an aerial alignment (1,500-foot- long viaduct) above the trail. The proposed viaduct would span the trail with a 19.1-foot clearance.	The HSR track would be on an embankment with an approximately 500- foot, short viaduct over the Pacific Crest Trail and Oak Creek Road. The proposed viaduct under Alternative 3 would span the trail with a 12-foot clearance.	Realign approximately 845 linear feet of the Pacific Crest Trail. The HSR alignment would be immediately adjacent to and in an aerial alignment (1,500-foot- long viaduct) above the trail. The proposed viaduct would span the trail with a 19.1-foot clearance.	No change	No change
Land Use				-		-
Compatibility with other planning efforts	 The alternative is incompatible with portions of the following Land Use Plans: Kern County General Plan and appendices Keene Rural Community Plan Kern County Golden Hills Specific Plan Rosamond Specific Plan Tehachapi General Plan Keene Ranch Specific Plan 	 Plan and appendices Keene Rural Community Plan Kern County Golden Hills Specific Plan Rosamond Specific Plan Tehachapi General Plan Keene Ranch 	 Plan and appendices Keene Rural Community Plan Kern County Golden Hills Specific Plan Rosamond Specific Plan Tehachapi General Plan Keene Ranch 	The alternative is incompatible with existing land uses in Lancaster, as realignment of Sierra Highway may displace existing residences and businesses along Sierra Highway. The alternative is inconsistent with portions of the same plans as Alternative 1.	No change	No change
	 Specific Plan Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan 	 Specific Plan Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan 	 Specific Plan Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan 			

Measurement Criteria	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 5	CCNM Design Option	Refined CCNM Design Option
	 Lancaster Specific Plan Palmdale General 	 Lancaster Specific Plan Palmdale General 	 Lancaster Specific Plan Palmdale General 			
	PlanLos Angeles County General Plan	PlanLos Angeles County General Plan	PlanLos Angeles County General Plan			
	Los Angeles County Bicycle Master Plan	Los Angeles County Bicycle Master Plan	Los Angeles County Bicycle Master Plan			
Disruption to Commun	ities					
Acres temporarily impacted outside of the permanent right-of-way	1,672	1,637	1,644	1,694	+15 acres	-66 acres
Acres permanently converted to transportation use	6,111	6,056	6,164	6,098	-12 acres	+767 acres
Residential displacements	253 units	253 units	255 units	368 units	No change	-1 unit
Business displacements	311	311	311	329	No change	No change
Community facility displacements	3	3	3	6	No change	No change
Disruption to existing intermodal connections	Alignment requires relocation of:	Alignment requires relocation of:	Alignment requires relocation of:	Alignment requires relocation of:	No change	No change
for transportation	Sierra Highway Bike Path	Sierra Highway Bike Path	Sierra Highway Bike Path	 Sierra Highway Bike Path 		
	Avenue K-8 Bike Path	 Avenue K-8 Bike Path 	Avenue K-8 Bike Path	 Avenue K-8 Bike Path 		
	Proposed Avenue K- 8 Bike Path Bridge	Proposed Avenue K- 8 Bike Path Bridge	Proposed Avenue K- 8 Bike Path Bridge	 Proposed Avenue K- 8 Bike Path Bridge 		

Measurement Criteria	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 5	CCNM Design Option	Refined CCNM Design Option
Disruption to and relocation of utilities	High-risk utilities crossings: • Natural gas: 7 • Petroleum/fuel: 5	High-risk utilities crossings: • Natural gas: 9 • Petroleum/fuel: 5	High-risk utilities crossings: • Natural gas: 7 • Petroleum/fuel: 5	High-risk utilities crossings: • Natural gas: 7 • Petroleum/fuel: 5	No change	No change
Utilities crossings (Divided into high-risk and low-risk facilities based on HSR standards) (The numbers shown are the total number of utility crossings within 100 feet on each side of the HSR centerline alignment.)	Low-risk utilities crossings: • Electrical substation: 46 • Telecom: 646 • Fiber-optic: 21 • Water: 364 • Sewer: 75 • Stormwater: 94	 Low-risk utilities crossings: Electrical substation: 46 Telecom: 562 Fiber-optic: 21 Water: 361 Sewer: 72 Stormwater: 94 	Low-risk utilities crossings: Electrical substation: 46 Telecom: 646 Fiber-optic: 21 Water: 364 Sewer: 75 Stormwater: 94	Low-risk utilities crossings: Electrical substation: 46 Telecom: 646 Fiber-optic: 21 Water: 364 Sewer: 75 Stormwater: 94	Low-risk utilities crossings: 1 fewer for stormwater	Low-risk utilities crossings: 1 fewer for stormwater
Disruption to and relocation of wind turbines (within 100 feet of each side of HSR alignment)	Existing: 11 potential wind turbine impacts Proposed: 0	Existing: 11 potential wind turbine impacts Proposed: 0	Existing: 11 potential wind turbine impacts Proposed: 0	Existing: 11 potential wind turbine impacts Proposed: 0	No change	No change
Proximity to schools (in project footprint)	Existing: 6	Existing: 5	Existing: 6	Existing: 6	No change	No change
Proximity to hazardous materials and waste (high ranked PEC sites)	73 sites	73 sites	73 sites	71 sites	No change	No change
Section 4(f)/6(f)			·			
Park, recreation, and school play area properties evaluated under Section 4(f) (preliminary	 Pacific Crest Trail (<i>De minimis</i> ~ 845 linear feet of trail realignment, permanent maintenance 	 Pacific Crest Trail (<i>De minimis</i> ~ 845 linear feet of trail realignment, permanent maintenance 	 Pacific Crest Trail (<i>De minimis</i> permanent maintenance easement, 	 Pacific Crest Trail (<i>De minimis</i> ~ 845 linear feet of trail realignment, permanent maintenance 	No change	No change

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Measurement Criteria	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 5	CCNM Design Option	Refined CCNM Design Option
determinations are noted in parentheses)	 easement, temporary occupancy) Avenue K-8 Bike Path (<i>de minimis</i> ~ 0.3 mile) Rex Parris High School (permanent use ~ 4.58 acres) Dr. Robert C. St. Clair Parkway (<i>de minimis</i>—Footings for pedestrian overcrossings in parkway) 	 easement, temporary occupancy) Avenue K-8 Bike Path (<i>de minimis</i> ~ 0.3 mile) Rex Parris High School (permanent use ~ 4.58 acres) Dr. Robert C. St. Clair Parkway (<i>de minimis</i>—Footings for pedestrian overcrossings in parkway) 	temporary occupancy) Avenue K-8 Bike Path (<i>de minimis</i> ~ 0.3 mile) Rex Parris High School (permanent use ~ 4.58 acres) Dr. Robert C. St. Clair Parkway (<i>de minimis</i> —Footings for pedestrian overcrossings in parkway)	 easement, temporary occupancy) Whit Carter Park (permanent use ~ 6.86 acres, temporary occupancy) Avenue K-8 Bike Path (<i>de minimis</i> ~ 0.3 mile) Rex Parris High School (permanent use ~ 4.58 acres) Dr. Robert C. St. Clair Parkway (<i>de minimis</i>—Footings for pedestrian overcrossings in parkway) 		
Properties listed in, or determined or recommended eligible for, the NRHP evaluated under Section 4(f)	 Big Creek Hydroelectric System – Historic District (permanent use) 	 Big Creek Hydroelectric System – Historic District (permanent use) 	 Big Creek Hydroelectric System – Historic District (permanent use) 	 Big Creek Hydroelectric System – Historic District (permanent use) Denny's Restaurant #30 (Village Grille) (diner) (permanent use) 	No change	No change

Measurement Criteria	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 5	CCNM Design Option	Refined CCNM Design Option
Environmental Justice		•				
Low-income or minority communities affected	 Northeast Bakersfield Edison Lancaster 	 Northeast Bakersfield Edison Lancaster 	 Northeast Bakersfield Edison Lancaster 	 Northeast Bakersfield Edison Lancaster 	No change	No change
Disproportionate effects on low-income or minority communities	 Displacements: 96 residential units reserved for low- income/55 and older Majority of displaced residential units are in census block groups with substantial EJ populations Grace Resource Center Lancaster Community Shelter 155 motel rooms/de- facto affordable housing units 	 residential units are in census block groups with substantial EJ populations Grace Resource Center Lancaster Community Shelter 	 residential units are in census block groups with substantial EJ populations Grace Resource Center Lancaster Community Shelter 	 Displacements: 96 residential units reserved for low- income/55 and older 36 residential units reserved for low- income housing Majority of displaced residential units are in census block groups with substantial EJ populations Grace Resource Center 527 motel rooms/de- facto affordable housing units 	No change	No change

Measurement Criteria	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 5	CCNM Design Option	Refined CCNM Design Option
Demographics, socioeconomic composition, and communities of environmental justice concern	 Low-income populations: 23.4% of population within the EJ RSA is considered low- income Minority populations: 61.7% of population 	61.7% of population	61.7% of population	61.7% of population	No change	No change
	within the EJ RSA is considered minority	within the EJ RSA is considered minority	within the EJ RSA is considered minority	within the EJ RSA is considered minority		
	 Limited English Proficiency (LEP) households: 7.2% of households within the EJ RSA are considered LEP 	 Limited English Proficiency (LEP) households: 7.2% of households within the EJ RSA are considered LEP 	 Limited English Proficiency (LEP) households: 7.2% of households within the EJ RSA are considered LEP 	 Limited English Proficiency (LEP) households: 7.2% of households within the EJ RSA are considered LEP 		
	Elderly populations: 11.6% of population within the EJ RSA is 65 and older	Elderly populations: 11.6% of population within the EJ RSA is 65 and older	Elderly populations: 11.6% of population within the EJ RSA is 65 and older	Elderly populations: 11.6% of population within the EJ RSA is 65 and older		
Environmental Resource	es	1	-	-	1	
Biological Resources						
Special-status plant communities	994.4 acres	994.4 acres	1,026.5 acres	994.4 acres	No change	+503 acres
Blue Oak Woodland						
Desert Riparian		18.9 acres	19.9 acres	18.1 acres	No change	+1 acre
Desert Scrub	89.1 acres	89.1 acres	89.1 acres	89.1 acres	No change	+1 acre
Desert Wash	32.2 acres	37.3 acres	32.2 acres	32.2 acres	No change	No change

Measurement Criteria	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 5	CCNM Design Option	Refined CCNM Design Option
Joshua Tree	325.0 acres	325.0 acres	284.0 acres	328.5 acres	No change	No change
Mixed Chaparral	0.0 acres	0.0 acres	0.0 acres	0.0 acres	No change	+1 acre
Perennial Grassland	0.2 acres	0.2 acres	0.2 acres	0.2 acres	No change	+2 acres
Valley Foothill Riparian	2.2 acres	2.2 acres	2.2 acres	2.2 acres	No change	-1 acre
Valley Oak Woodland	0.5 acres	0.5 acres	0.5 acres	0.5 acres	No change	+1 acre
BLM West Mojave Planning Area (within the California Desert Conservation Area boundary)	959 acres	959 acres	958 acres	959 acres	No change	No change
Western Mojave Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan area	957 acres	957 acres	955 acres	956 acres	No change	No change
Upland species of the San Joaquin Valley Recovery Plan area	Linkage: 377 acresSatellite: 122 acres	Linkage: +15.91 acres	Linkage: +15.47 acres			
Biological resources	716 acres	716 acres	716 acres	716 acres	No change	No change
PG&E San Joaquin Valley Operations and Maintenance HCP						

Measurement Criteria	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 5	CCNM Design Option	Refined CCNM Design Option
Kern County Valley Floor HCP	Green Zone: 254 acres	 Green Zone: 254 acres 	 Green Zone: 254 acres 	 Green Zone: 254 acres 	Green Zone: +96.10 acres	Green Zone: +76.36 acres
	 Metropolitan Bakersfield HCP: 274 acres 	 Metropolitan Bakersfield HCP: 274 acres 	 Metropolitan Bakersfield HCP: 274 acres 	 Metropolitan Bakersfield HCP: 274 acres 		
	A memorandum of understanding was prepared in 1989 among the USFWS, the BLM, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (formerly the California Department of Fish and Game), the California Energy Commission, and the California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources, to establish the Kern County VFHCP. The proposed VFHCP uses a conservation strategy that would provide for preservation of the best remaining natural lands while still allowing economic growth to occur in the area. The VFHCP area consists of 3,110 square miles within Kern County. The boundaries are Kings and Tulare Counties to the north, up to an approximately 2,000-foot elevation contour to the south and east, and San Luis Obispo County to the west. The VFHCP area would be divided into three habitat zone categories of red, green, and white based on habitat value. Red Zones contain the highest-valued conservation habitat and represent the best contiguous blocks of undisturbed or lightly disturbed habitat. Green Zones are second highest in priori classification, contain some disturbance, and are important for movement of species among the Red Zones. The White Zones contain the least amount of valuable habitat and have the lowest priority for					No change
Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan area	1,181 acres	1,181 acres	1,181 acres	1,180 acres	No change	No change
Tejon Ranch Conservation Lands	Tejon Ranch White Wolf acquisition	Tejon Ranch White Wolf acquisition	Tejon Ranch White Wolf acquisition	Tejon Ranch White Wolf acquisition	No change	No change
(within 100 feet)	Area + conservation easement (Ranchwide Management Plan): 171 acres	Area + conservation easement (Ranchwide Management Plan): 171 acres	Area + conservation easement (Ranchwide Management Plan): 171 acres	Area + conservation easement (Ranchwide Management Plan): 171 acres		

Measurement Criteria	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 5	CCNM Design Option	Refined CCNM Design Option
Aquatic Resources—Ol	HWM or Edge of Wetland					
Seasonal Wetland	2.3 acres	2.3 acres	1.2 acres	2.3 acres	No Change	-0.07 acres
Forested Wetland	0.9 acre	0.9 acre	1.0 acre	0.9 acre	No Change	No Change
Claypans	8.9 acres	8.9 acres	8.9 acres	8.8 acres	No Change	No Change
Streams and Washes	22.4 acres	22.4 acres	23.2 acres	22.4 acres	+0.19 acres	+2.53 acres
In-Stream Impoundments	0.5 acre	0.4 acre	0.5 acre	0.5 acre	No Change	No Change
Artificial Watercourses	31.2 acres	28.8 acres	31.3 acres	27.4 acres	No Change	+0.04
Aquatic Resources—To	op of Bank or Edge of Rip	arian	·		·	
Streams and Washes	48.3 acres	48.1 acres	50 acres	48.5 acres	+0.41 acres	+4.09 acres
In-Stream Impoundments	0.5 acre	0.4 acre	0.5 acre	0.5 acre	No Change	No Change
Riparian	15.1 acres	15.1 acres	15.8 acres	15.1 acres	No Change	+2.02 acres
Artificial Watercourse	39.1 acres	36.8 acres	39.1 acres	35.5 acres	No Change	No Change
Cultural Resources			•		·	
Cultural resources (within 100 feet)	10	10	11	11	No change	Two fewer archaeological properties (-2)
Paleontological resources (linear miles crossed by alignment)	8.9 miles of geologic units with High sensitivity for paleontological resources		units with High sensitivity	8.9 miles of geologic units with High sensitivity for paleontological resources	-0.02 mile	+ 0.15 mile
	48.32 miles of geologic units with "high at-depth" paleontological sensitivity	48.32 miles of geologic units with "high at-depth" paleontological sensitivity	474 miles of geologic units with "high at-depth" paleontological sensitivity	48.32 miles of geologic units with "high at-depth" paleontological sensitivity	+0.01 mile	+ 0.15 mile

Measurement Criteria	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 5	CCNM Design Option	Refined CCNM Design Option
Agricultural						
Agricultural lands (within 100 feet)	 Agricultural land: Prime, Statewide, and Unique: 1,056 acres Grazing land: 930.3 acres Williamson Act land: 416.5 acres 	 Agricultural land: Prime, Statewide, and Unique: 1,065 acres Grazing land: 930.3 acres Williamson Act land: 416.5 acres 	 Agricultural land: Prime, Statewide, and Unique: 1,054 acres Grazing land: 930.3 acres Williamson Act land: 416.5 acres 	 Agricultural land: Prime, Statewide, and Unique: 1,056 acres Grazing land: 930.3 acres Williamson Act land: 416.5 acres 	 Agricultural land: Prime, Statewide, and Unique: No change Grazing land: +9.6 acres Williamson Act land: +9.8 acres 	 Agricultural land: Prime, Statewide, and Unique: No change Grazing land: +701.7 acres Williamson Act land: +109.8 acres
Community Resources	J	1	1	1	1	1
Community resources potentially significant to affected communities (within 100 feet)	 Existing: 2 government facilities 2 bike routes 6 low-income housing facilities (motel facilities potentially utilized for temporary housing) 1 healthcare facility 1 retirement facility White Wolf-Bodfish Road Trail –1,500 feet 	 Existing: 2 government facilities 2 bike routes 6 low-income housing facilities (motel facilities potentially utilized for temporary housing) 1 healthcare facility 1 retirement facility 	 Existing: 2 government facilities 2 bike routes 6 low-income housing facilities (motel facilities potentially utilized for temporary housing facilities) 1 healthcare facility 1 retirement facility 	 Existing: 1 religious facilities 2 government facilities 1 school 2 bike routes 6 low-income housing facilities (motel facilities potentially utilized for temporary housing) 1 park 1 retirement facility 	No change	No change
Displacement of community resources potentially significant to affected communities	Proposed: • 2 bike routes	Proposed: • 2 bike routes	Proposed: • 2 bike routes	Proposed: 2 bike routes 1 park 	No change	No change

Measurement Criteria	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 5	CCNM Design Option	Refined CCNM Design Option
Noise and Vibration	·					·
Noise and Vibration (within 2,500 feet)	Residential: 1,845	,		Residential: 1,943	No change	No change
Number of severe	Non-residential: 12			Non-residential: 12		
operational impacts to sensitive receptors	Total number of sensitive noise receptors: 1,857			Total number of sensitive noise receptors: 1,955	9	
Number of operational vibration impacts to sensitive receivers.	0	0	0	0	No change	No change
Hydrology and Geomor	phology					
Fire hazard at the state	Very High: 0 mile	Very high: 0 mile	Very high: 0.4 mile	Very high: 0 mile	No change	No change
classification level	High: 19.6 miles	High: 19.6 miles	High: 20.9 miles	High: 19.6 miles		
(Total number of miles within 100 feet on either side of the HSR centerline)	Moderate: 25.1 miles	Moderate: 25.2 miles	Moderate: 23.4 miles	Moderate: 25.1 miles		
Floodplains	19.50 miles	19.52 miles	19.40 miles	19.52 miles	-0.01 mile	-0.02 mile
(Total number of miles of flood zones crossed)						
Stormwater	9,825	8,753	8,864	8,733	+4.0 acres	+577 acres
(Disturbed soil area during construction)						
Stormwater	764 acres	771 acres	743 acres	760 acres	-1 acre	-5.9 acres
(Net permanent increase in impervious surface area)						
Groundwater (miles/area of groundwater basins crossed)	61 miles/6,833 acres	61 miles/6,764 acres	60.5 miles/6,761 acres	61 miles/6,732 acres	No change	No change

Measurement Criteria	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 5	CCNM Design Option	Refined CCNM Design Option
(Total number of wells within 100 feet on either		, ,	sedimentary basins with oil, gas, and geothermal	There are seven wells and their associated sedimentary basins with oil, gas, and geothermal production.	No change	No change
BLM = Bureau of Land Manager CCNM = César E. Chávez Natio		igh-speed rail	PG&E = Pacific Gas	and Electric Company		

CRHR = California Register of Historical Resources

EJ = environmental justice HCP = Habitat Conservation Plan LEP = Limited English Proficiency NRHP = National Register of Historic Places OHWM = ordinary high water mark

PEC = Potential Environmental Concern

RSA = resource study area SR = State Route

UPRR = Union Pacific Railroad USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service VFHCP = Valley Floor Habitat Conservation Plan

No change = This classification is being used for the CCNM Design Option and the Refined CCNM Design Option. No change means that the related design option does not change (positive or negative) the analysis of the alternative. This is mostly due to the fact that the resource being analyzed does not exist in the area of the CCNM Design Option or the Refined CCNM Design Option. If a change in the impacts was identified, then the number is presented indicated the change.



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