

## 17 INTRODUCTION

This introduction explains the organization of and how to use Volume IV of the Final Supplemental EIR. Volume IV contains public comments on the 2017 Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the Fresno to Bakersfield Section of the High-Speed Rail project and responses.

### 17.1 Standard Responses to Frequently Raised Comments

As part of the public review process for the 2017 Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS, the Authority received approximately 285 written comment letters and verbal comments at public hearings containing 1,068 individual comments on the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS and on the proposed project generally. The Authority has therefore prepared a chapter of standard responses to address the most frequently raised issues. The standard responses provide a comprehensive response to an issue so that multiple aspects of the issue are addressed in an organized manner in one location. This reduces repetition of responses. When an individual comment raises an issue discussed in a standard response, the response to the individual comment includes a cross-reference to the appropriate standard response. In Volume IV, the standard responses are provided in Chapter 18.

### 17.2 Individual Responses to Written and Verbal Comments

Following the standard responses, the Authority provide responses to individual written and verbal comments.

The individual letters and comments included and addressed in Volume IV are organized and numbered as follows:

- Federal Agencies (Chapter 20)
- State Agencies (Chapter 21)
- Elected Officials (Chapter 22)
- Local Agencies (Chapter 23)
- Business and Organization Comments (Chapter 24)
- Individual Comments (Chapter 25)
- Public Hearing Comments (Chapter 26)

Each written submission and oral presentation can be found under the appropriate category, by name, or if representing an organization, the name of their organization. If a commenter gave oral or written testimony at one of the public hearings, they will find their comments, submissions, and responses under “Public Hearing Comments.” Each written comment letter sent to the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) or the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) was assigned a number. Each comment letter and public hearing transcript has brackets in the left-hand margin with identification numbers for each comment. Some letters or oral statements have been treated as a single comment, whereas in other submissions multiple comments have been identified, which have been numbered and responded to individually. The responses to comment(s) are located at the end of each letter or transcript. Each response is labeled with the letter/testimony identifier and comment number that relates back to that particular bracketed comment.

Some comments from the same agency, organization, or individual were submitted more than once (e.g., letter was first faxed and then mailed). These duplicate comment letters are included only once and are not repeated multiple times in the volume.

A number of written comment submissions in Volume IV included lengthy attachments to the comment letters or provided web links to supporting materials. In preparing the Final Supplemental EIR and responses to comments, every attachment provided with comment submissions or identified by a web link was reviewed and evaluated. In those cases where

attachments included additional comments on the Supplemental EIR/EIS, the comments were delineated and responded to. In those cases where attachments or web links contained information or studies in support of the written comment submission, the material was considered in developing the response.

The table of contents for Volume IV, provided below, includes a listing of each comment, submission number, and the page of the volume where it can be found.

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