

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613

For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #2009091125**Project Title:** California High-Speed Rail Project, Merced to Fresno Section: Central Valley Wye Final Supplemental EIR/EIS

Lead Agency: California High-Speed Rail Authority

Contact Person: Mark A. McLoughlin

Mailing Address: 770 L Street, Suite 620 MS-1

Phone: 916-403-6934

City: Sacramento

Zip: 95814

County: Sacramento

Project Location: County: Merced, Madera, Fresno, Stanislaus City/Nearest Community: Chowchilla, Fairmead, Madera Acres

Cross Streets: Please see attached page Zip Code: Various

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): _____° _____' _____" N / _____° _____' _____" W Total Acres: Approx. 55 miles

Assessor's Parcel No.: Various

Section: Various Twp.: Various Range: Various Base: _____

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: 59, 99, 132, 140, 152, 233

Waterways: Multiple

Airports: Several local airports

Railways: BNSF, UPRR

Schools: Multiple

Document Type:CEQA: ☐ NOP☐ Draft EIRNEPA: ☐ NOIOther: ☒ Joint Document☐ Early Cons☒ Supplement/Subsequent EIR☐ EA☒ Final Document☐ Neg Dec

(Prior SCH No.) 2009091125

☐ Draft EIS☐ Other: _____☐ Mit Neg Dec

Other: Final Supp. EIR/EIS

☐ FONSI**Local Action Type:**☐ General Plan Update☐ Specific Plan☐ Rezone☐ Annexation☐ General Plan Amendment☐ Master Plan☐ Prezone☐ Redevelopment☐ General Plan Element☐ Planned Unit Development☐ Use Permit☐ Coastal Permit☐ Community Plan☐ Site Plan☐ Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)☒ Other: Public Works**Development Type:**☐ Residential: Units _____ Acres _____

Acres _____

Employees _____

☒ Transportation: Type Rail (high-speed train)☐ Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____

Acres _____

Employees _____

☐ Mining: Mineral _____☐ Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____

Acres _____

Employees _____

☐ Power: Type _____ MW☐ Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____

Acres _____

Employees _____

☐ Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD☐ Educational: _____☐ Hazardous Waste: Type _____☐ Recreational: _____☐ Other: _____☐ Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____**Project Issues Discussed in Document:**☒ Aesthetic/Visual☐ Fiscal☒ Recreation/Parks☒ Vegetation☒ Agricultural Land☒ Flood Plain/Flooding☒ Schools/Universities☒ Water Quality☒ Air Quality☐ Forest Land/Fire Hazard☒ Septic Systems☒ Water Supply/Groundwater☒ Archeological/Historical☒ Geologic/Seismic☒ Sewer Capacity☒ Wetland/Riparian☒ Biological Resources☒ Minerals☒ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading☒ Growth Inducement☐ Coastal Zone☒ Noise☒ Solid Waste☒ Land Use☒ Drainage/Absorption☒ Population/Housing Balance☒ Toxic/Hazardous☒ Cumulative Effects☒ Economic/Jobs☒ Public Services/Facilities☒ Traffic/Circulation☐ Other: _____**Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:**

Primarily agricultural

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

Please see attached page.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation
<input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction
<input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District #6, 10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB #5
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy	<input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
<input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region #4	<input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Please see attached page.
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission	

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date N/A Ending Date N/A

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: <u>ICF</u>	Applicant: <u>California High-Speed Rail Authority</u>
Address: <u>980 9th Street, Suite 1200</u>	Address: <u>770 L Street, Suite 620 MS-1</u>
City/State/Zip: <u>Sacramento, CA 95814</u>	City/State/Zip: <u>Sacramento, CA 95814</u>
Contact: <u>John Cook</u>	Phone: <u>916-324-1541</u>
Phone: <u>415-677-7195</u>	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: Scott Rothberg for Mark A. McLaughlin Date: 8/6/20

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

NOTICE OF COMPLETION - ATTACHMENT

Project Name

California High-Speed Rail Project, Merced to Fresno Section: Central Valley Wye

Project Location, Cross Streets

The proposed Merced to Fresno Section: Central Valley Wye is located in Merced and Madera Counties near the City of Chowchilla with related electrical facilities extending into Fresno and Stanislaus Counties. The project termini are located at Henry Miller Road/Carlucci Road on the west (lat/long 37° 5'51.46"N - 120°40'48.84"W), Ranch Road/SR 99 on the north (lat/long 37°13'21.29"N - 120°22'40.69"W), and Avenue 19 near Madera Acres on the south (lat/long 37° 1'31.84"N - 120°4'46.61"W). The nearest major state highway intersection is State Route 99 (SR 99) and State Route 152 (SR 152).

Project Description

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) proposes to construct and operate the Merced to Fresno Section project, with an approximately 51- to 55-mile portion for the Central Valley Wye, as part of the larger, 800-mile California High-Speed Rail (HSR) system planned throughout California. The HSR system will connect the major population centers of Sacramento, the San Francisco Bay Area, the Central Valley, Los Angeles, the Inland Empire, Orange County, and San Diego. As part of the Merced to Fresno Section of the statewide HSR system, the Central Valley Wye would create the east-west HSR connection between the San Jose to Merced Section to the west and the north-south portion of the Merced to Fresno Section to the east. The Central Valley Wye is located in Merced and Madera counties near the city of Chowchilla with related electrical interconnections and network upgrades extending into Fresno and Stanislaus counties.

This Merced to Fresno Section: Central Valley Wye Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Final Supplemental EIR/EIS) is a supplement to the Merced to Fresno Section Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Merced to Fresno Final EIR/EIS). The Merced to Fresno Final EIR/EIS identified the Hybrid Alternative as the preferred alternative for the north/south rail alignment, but deferred identification of a preferred alignment for the wye connection of the alignment.

The Authority Board of Directors certified the Merced to Fresno Final EIR/EIS under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and approved the Hybrid Alternative on May 3, 2012. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) issued a Record of Decision (ROD) on September 18, 2012, and the Surface Transportation Board (STB) issued a ROD on June 13, 2013. Although the Authority Board of Directors and FRA approved the Hybrid Alternative outside the wye area for the north/south alignment of the high-speed rail and the Downtown Merced and Downtown Fresno Mariposa Street station locations, these approvals deferred a decision on the area known as the "wye connection", that is, the east-west high-speed rail connection between the San Jose to Merced Section to the west and the north-south portion of the Merced to Fresno Section to the east, to allow for additional consideration of wye alternatives and environmental analysis.

This Final Supplemental EIR/EIS evaluates the impacts and benefits of implementing a wye connection in the geographically limited area of the wye connection between the cities of Merced and Madera and is based on additional project planning and engineering that has occurred over the last several years. This Final Supplemental EIR/EIS also evaluates the No Project Alternative¹ and four Central Valley Wye alternatives: the State Route (SR) 152 (North) to Road

¹ The No Project Alternative as defined in the Final Supplemental EIR/EIS serves as both the No Project Alternative under CEQA and the No Action Alternative under NEPA.

13 Wye Alternative, SR 152 (North) to Road 19 Wye Alternative, Avenue 21 to Road 13 Wye Alternative, and SR 152 (North) to Road 11 Wye Alternative.

In this Final Supplemental EIR/EIS, the Authority affirms its earlier identification of a Preferred Alternative in the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS. The Preferred Alternative for the Central Valley Wye, which also serves as the Proposed Project for CEQA, is the SR 152 (North) to Road 11 Wye Alternative.

NEPA and CEQA Lead Agency

California High-Speed Rail Authority
770 L Street, Suite 620 MS-1
Sacramento, CA 95814

Pursuant to 23 United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 327, the FRA and the State of California executed a NEPA Assignment Memorandum of Understanding (NEPA Assignment MOU), dated July 23, 2019 (FRA and State of California 2019). Pursuant to this MOU, the State of California, acting through the California State Transportation Agency and the Authority, assumed FRA's responsibilities under NEPA and other federal environmental laws, as assigned by FRA under the NEPA Assignment MOU, for projects necessary for the design, construction, and operation of the California HSR System and for other passenger rail projects that directly connect to the HSR system, including documents that were not final for distribution as of the publication date of the memorandum.

Accordingly, the Authority is the Lead Agency for complying with NEPA and other federal environmental laws for the HSR System and is identified as such in this environmental document.

Responsible NEPA and CEQA Official

Brian P. Kelly, Chief Executive Officer
California High-Speed Rail Authority
770 L Street, Suite 620 MS-1
Sacramento, CA 95814

Reviewing Agencies Checklist - Other

California Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency, Secretary, Sacramento, CA
California Environmental Protection Agency, Secretary for Environmental Protection, Sacramento, CA
California Geologic Survey, Sacramento, CA
California Health and Human Services Agency, Sacramento, CA
California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, Sacramento, CA
California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, Sacramento, CA
California State Transportation Agency, Secretary, Sacramento, CA
California Transportation Commission, Executive Director, Sacramento, CA
California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Mather, CA
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, Fresno, CA