

August 3, 2020

AUG 10 2020
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Dear Project Stakeholder:

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) announces the availability of the Merced to Fresno Section: Central Valley Wye Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Final Supplemental EIR/EIS) of the California High-Speed Rail Project, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The Authority has prepared this document as a supplement to its 2012 Final EIR/EIS for the Merced to Fresno Section (Merced to Fresno Final EIR/EIS). Following completion of the Merced to Fresno Final EIR/EIS in May 2012, the Authority and FRA approved portions of the "Preferred Alternative" (i.e., the Hybrid Alternative) outside the wye for the north-south HSR alignment and the Downtown Merced and Downtown Fresno Mariposa Street station locations. Both agencies deferred a decision on the area known as the "wye connection," which refers to the HSR connection between the east-west San Jose to Merced Section to the west and the north-south Merced to Fresno Section to the east, to allow for consideration of additional wye alternatives. The Final Supplemental EIR/EIS describes and analyzes these additional wye alternatives and thus supplements the analysis and conclusions of the Merced to Fresno Final EIR/EIS.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for the project are being or have been carried out by the State of California pursuant to 23 United States Code 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated July 23, 2019, and executed by the FRA and the State of California. Under that MOU, the Authority is the project's lead agency under NEPA. Prior to the July 23, 2019, MOU, the FRA was the federal lead agency. The Authority is the project's lead agency under CEQA.

You are receiving this letter because your property has been identified as being within or near the location of one or more of the project alternatives, or you attended a public meeting or expressed an interest in the project.

The Final Supplemental EIR/EIS is being made available to the public and agencies prior to an anticipated meeting of the Authority's Board of Directors on September 10, 2020. The document will be available to the public on **Friday, August 7, 2020**.

The Final Supplemental EIR/EIS can be viewed on the project website at:

https://hsr.ca.gov/programs/environmental/eis_eir/draft_supplemental_merced_fresno.aspx.

Printed and/or electronic copies of the Final Supplemental EIR/EIS have been placed at the following locations, and can be viewed during hours the facilities are open (open days/hours may be reduced for compliance with coronavirus public health and safety directives):

- Authority's Fresno Office: 1111 H Street, Fresno, CA 93721
- Authority's Sacramento Office: 770 L Street, Suite 620, Sacramento, CA 95814
- Chowchilla Branch Library: 300 Kings Avenue, Chowchilla, CA 93610
- Madera County Library: 121 North G Street, Madera, CA 93637
- Merced County Library: 2100 O Street, Merced, CA 95340
- Madera County Clerk: 200 W 4th Street, Madera, CA 93637
- Merced County Clerk: 2222 M Street, Merced, CA 95340

Please check the Authority website (www.hsr.ca.gov) or call (800) 881-5799 for the latest information on access to the documents. You can also request a copy of the Final Supplemental EIR/EIS by calling (800) 881-5799. The Executive Summary is available in Spanish upon request.

The Final Supplemental EIR/EIS includes the Authority's responses comments received on the previously circulated Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS and Revised/Second Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS. Consistent with the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS, the Final Supplemental EIR/EIS identifies the SR 152 (North) to Road 11 Wye Alternative as the Authority's Preferred Alternative.

AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING on September 10, 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE

Due to public health and safety requirements concerning the coronavirus, the Authority's Board of Directors meeting for the Final Supplemental EIR/EIS may occur as an online and video/teleconference meeting only. Please check the Authority website (www.hsr.ca.gov) or call (916) 324-1541 for more information, including up-to-date information on the planned meeting.

At the meeting on September 10, 2020, the Authority's Board of Directors will consider whether to certify the Final Supplemental EIR/EIS and approve the Preferred Alternative pursuant to CEQA. The Authority's Board of Directors will also consider whether to direct the Authority Chief Executive Officer to issue a Supplemental Record of Decision for the Merced to Fresno Section selecting the Preferred Alternative. Spanish interpreters will be available at the meeting. Other language requests must be submitted 72 hours in advance. You can request interpreters by calling (800) 881-5799 or contacting the California Relay Service at 711. The meeting facility is ADA accessible. A court reporter will be available at the meeting to record public comments.

If you have any questions about the Final Supplemental EIR/EIS, please contact the Outreach Team by phone at (800) 881-5799 or by email at

CentralValley.Wye@hsr.ca.gov. If you need assistance to interpret or translate this letter in a language other than English, please call (800) 881-5799 for assistance. Si necesita ayuda traduciendo o interpretando esta carta, hay personal disponible que habla español para ayudarle. Por favor llame (800) 881-5799.

Sincerely,



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Mark A. McLoughlin
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Attachments:

1. Notice of Availability