

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING BAY AREA TO CENTRAL VALLEY PARTIALLY REVISED DRAFT PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT AND PROGRAM EIR: California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), completed a Final Program EIR/EIS for the San Francisco Bay Area to Central Valley in May 2008 that evaluated alternatives—at a programmatic level of analysis—of the proposed high-speed train (HST) system within the broad corridor between and including the Altamont Pass and Pacheco Pass. The Authority and the FRA identified the Pacheco Pass serving San Francisco and San Jose termini as the preferred HST Network Alternative, as well as mitigation strategies, design practices, and further measures to guide the system's development and avoid and minimize potential adverse environmental impacts. The Authority approved the project and issued a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Notice of Determination (NOD) on July 9, 2008. The FRA issued a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Record of Decision (ROD) on December 2, 2008.

The Authority's compliance with CEQA has been subject to two litigation challenges entitled, *Town of Atherton, et al., v. California High-Speed Rail Authority*, Sacramento Superior Court No. 34-2008-8000022 and *Town of Atherton, et al., v. California High-Speed Rail Authority*, Sacramento Superior Court No. 34-2010-80000679. The first challenge to the Final Program EIR resulted in a decision by the Superior Court requiring the Authority to rescind its approval of the project. The Authority produced a Revised Final Program EIR and made a new decision approving the project in September 2010. The subsequent challenges to the Revised Final Program EIR have resulted in decisions by the Superior Court requiring the Authority to rescind its approval of the project and recirculate specific portions of the Program EIR with additional analysis and/or information. The Authority is circulating this Partially Revised Draft Program EIR in order to address the court rulings.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: The Partially Revised Draft Program EIR is being made available to the public in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act for a 45-day comment period. Comments shall be directed to John Mason, California High-Speed Rail Authority, 770 L Street, Suite 800, Sacramento, CA 95814. Comments can be received by the Authority through regular U.S. mail, via email with the subject line "Bay Area to Central Valley HST Partially Revised Draft Program EIR Comments" sent to BayArea-CentralValley@hsr.ca.gov, or through the Authority's website

[www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov/contact.aspx?cat=Bay_Area_Central_Valley]. The Authority will accept public comment on this document for a period of 45 days, commencing on January 6, 2012, and concluding at close of business on February 21, 2012.

Comments must be received electronically, or postmarked, on or before February 21, 2012.

The Partially Revised Draft Program EIR contains only the additional information and analysis needed for compliance with the court rulings. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15088.5, subdivision (f)(2), the Authority requests that reviewers limit the scope of their comments to the revised materials contained in this document. The Authority is obligated only to respond to those comments received during the comment period that relate to the content of this Partially Revised Draft Program EIR.

Following the public comment period, the Authority will prepare and issue a Partially Revised Final Program EIR that will include responses to the comments received. At a subsequent publicly noticed meeting, the Authority will consider the Partially Revised Final Program EIR and the entire record before it in determining whether to:

- Certify the Partially Revised Final Program EIR (including the 2008 Final Program EIR/EIS and the 2010 Revised Final Program EIR) for compliance with CEQA;
- Approve findings of fact, a statement of overriding considerations, and a mitigation monitoring and reporting program; and
- Approve a network alternative, preferred alignments, and preferred station locations for further study in project-level EIRs.

The Authority invites you to attend a public meeting that has been scheduled to receive comments from the public and public agencies on the Partially Revised Draft Program EIR. The meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2012, at the following location and time:

- 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. – San José City Hall, City Council Chambers, 200 East Santa Clara St, San José CA 95113
- The public meeting will be wheelchair accessible.

Visit the Authority Web Site [www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov/ba_cv_program_eir.aspx], where you may: view and download the Partially Revised Draft Program EIR, as well as the 2008 Final Program EIR/EIS and the 2010 Revised Final Program EIR; and locate a library near you to review a copy of the Partially Revised Draft Program EIR. Printed copies have been placed in the main public libraries in the following cities: Fremont, Gilroy, Livermore, Menlo Park, Merced, Modesto, Mountain View, Oakland, Palo Alto, Pleasanton, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Jose, Stockton, and Tracy. Please call the Authority, (916) 324-1541, or check the Authority Web Site [www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov/ba_cv_program_eir.aspx], for more information.

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.