



## How can I comment on the Merced to Fresno DEIR/DEIS

There is a formal 45-day public comment period during which the comments on the document can be submitted. The formal comment period will begin August 15, 2011 and will close September 28, 2011. There are several ways that you can provide comments:

- Attend a public hearing and fill out a comment form or have your comment transcribed by a court reporter. Public hearings will be held in three different communities that may be affected by the project and these are shown on page 1.
- Anytime during the comment period, comments will be accepted via email or standard mail. Comments can be submitted via mail to "Merced to Fresno Draft EIR/EIS Comment", 770 L Street, Suite 800, Sacramento, CA 95814, or via email to [merced\\_fresno@hsr.ca.gov](mailto:merced_fresno@hsr.ca.gov) with the subject line "Draft EIR/EIS Comment". Comments also can be submitted through the Authority's website: [www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov](http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov). The comment period is from (and including) August 15 to September 28, 2011. **Comments must be received electronically or postmarked on or before September 28, 2011.**

## What happens to my comments?

Each comment received regarding environmental issues will be reviewed and responded to in the Final EIR/EIS document which is expected to be released early next year. All formal public comments will be made public.

## What role does the EIR/EIS play in the project decision-making?

Following the publication of the Final EIR/EIS, the Authority and FRA will select an alignment and station locations. The location of the heavy maintenance facility likely will be selected later, given that the Fresno to Bakersfield DEIR/DEIS also is evaluating preferred heavy maintenance facility locations. Once an alignment has been approved, a Record of Decision (ROD) and Notice of Determination (NOD) will be issued allowing the project to move forward.

## For More Information

The California High-Speed Rail Authority is committed to updating and involving the public during the HST development. For more information, please visit <http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov> or call **800-439-3068**  
**Llame al: 800-734-8231**



### IMPORTANT DATES:

**Draft EIR/EIS public comment period:**  
August 15 - September 28, 2011

### Public Information Workshops:

**Fairmead**  
August 23, 2011, 4-7 p.m.  
Galilee Missionary Baptist Church  
22491 Fairmead Blvd., Chowchilla, 93610

**LeGrand**  
August 24, 2011, 4-7 p.m.  
Le Grand Legion Hall  
12560 Le Grand Road, Le Grand, 95333

**Chowchilla**  
August 25, 2011, 4-7 p.m.  
Little Theater Chowchilla-Madera County  
Fairgrounds, 1000 South 3rd Street,  
Chowchilla, 93610

### Formal Public Hearings:

**Merced**  
September 14, 2011, 3-7 p.m.  
Merced Community Senior Center  
755 West 15th Street, Merced 95340

**Madera**  
September 15, 2011, 3-7 p.m.  
Madera City Council Chambers  
205 W 4th Street, Madera, 93637

**Fresno**  
September 20, 2011, 3-7 p.m.  
Fresno Convention Center  
848 M Street, Fresno, 93721

## Now Available: DEIR/DEIS for Merced to Fresno High-Speed Train Project

The California High Speed Rail Authority (Authority) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) announce the availability of a joint Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (DEIR/DEIS) for the Merced to Fresno section of the California High-Speed Train (HST) Project for public review and comment. The official public comment period begins August 15, 2011 and ends September 28, 2011.

## About the Merced to Fresno High-Speed Train Project

### The California High-Speed Train System

The Authority is proposing to develop an 800-mile high-speed train system that would connect the San Francisco Bay Area to Sacramento in the north, through the Central Valley to Los Angeles, Orange County and San Diego in the south. From 2005 - 2010 the Authority completed program-level environmental studies to determine the general HST alignment and station locations. In November 2008, California voter-approved of \$9.95 billion in bonds to help move the program forward, and project-specific environmental studies are now underway for nine sections that make up the system.

### The Merced to Fresno section

The Merced to Fresno High-Speed Train (HST) section is approximately 65 miles long. Proposed route alternatives generally follow the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) and the Union Pacific (UP) railroads with one alternative being a hybrid using portions of the UPRR/SR99 and BNSF alignments. HST stations are proposed in Downtown Merced and Fresno and five alternative heavy maintenance and repair facility locations are being evaluated in the Merced to Fresno HST project area.



Mailing Label



## About the Environmental Review Process

### Overview of the environmental process

Whenever large projects like the California High-Speed Train System are planned, it is important to study how the project will affect the human and natural environment, and look for ways avoid, reduce or mitigate any negative impacts. The environmental process for this project falls under the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). These requirements allow a standardized method of identifying, evaluating and addressing these impacts. The DEIR/DEIS report these findings.

### What is the purpose of this DEIR/DEIS?

The DEIR/DEIS serves several purposes:

- Inform the public and agency decision makers of the environmental impacts of the proposed project
- Provide mitigation measures to avoid or significantly reduce negative environmental impacts
- Identify and evaluate reasonable alternatives that could avoid or lessen negative environmental impacts
- Allow the public to provide comments formally on potential environmental impacts

### Which agencies are responsible for creating the DEIR/DEIS?

The agency responsible for upholding the state's CEQA requirements of the joint document is the Authority. The agency responsible for upholding the federal NEPA requirements is the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

### How to Read the DEIR/DEIS

A DEIR/DEIS for a project of this size may be too long for someone to read the entire document. A suggestion would be to read through the table of contents to identify sections that interest you. Reading the executive summary is also recommended because it provides an overview of the entire document. After viewing the executive summary and the table of contents, it will be easier to choose which sections you are most interested in reading.



### Where can I find the Merced to Fresno DEIR/DEIS?

All the listed locations will have a printed copy of the Draft EIR/EIS. Some also will have a digital copy on CD-ROM. The Draft EIR/EIS, and related documents, are available at the Authority's website [www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov](http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov) and the FRA's website [www.fra.dot.gov](http://www.fra.dot.gov).

VENUE	ADDRESS
Fresno County Public Library, Central Branch	2420 Mariposa Street, Fresno, CA
Madera County Library	121 North G Street, Madera, CA 93637
Chowchilla Branch Library (Madera County Library)	300 Kings Avenue, Chowchilla, CA 93610
Merced Community Senior Center	755 West 15th Street, Merced, CA 95340
Merced County Library	2100 O Street, Merced, CA 95340
Galilee Missionary Baptist Church	22491 Fairmead Blvd., Chowchilla, CA 93610
Le Grand Branch Library	12949 Le Grand Road, Le Grand, CA 95333
Lao Family Community	855 W 15th Street, Merced, CA 95333
Madera Ranchos Branch Library	37167 Avenue 12, Suite 4C, Madera Ca 95636
Merced County Los Banos Branch Library	1312 South Seventh Street, Los Banos, CA 93635
Atwater Branch Library	1600 Third Street, Atwater, CA 95301-3607

