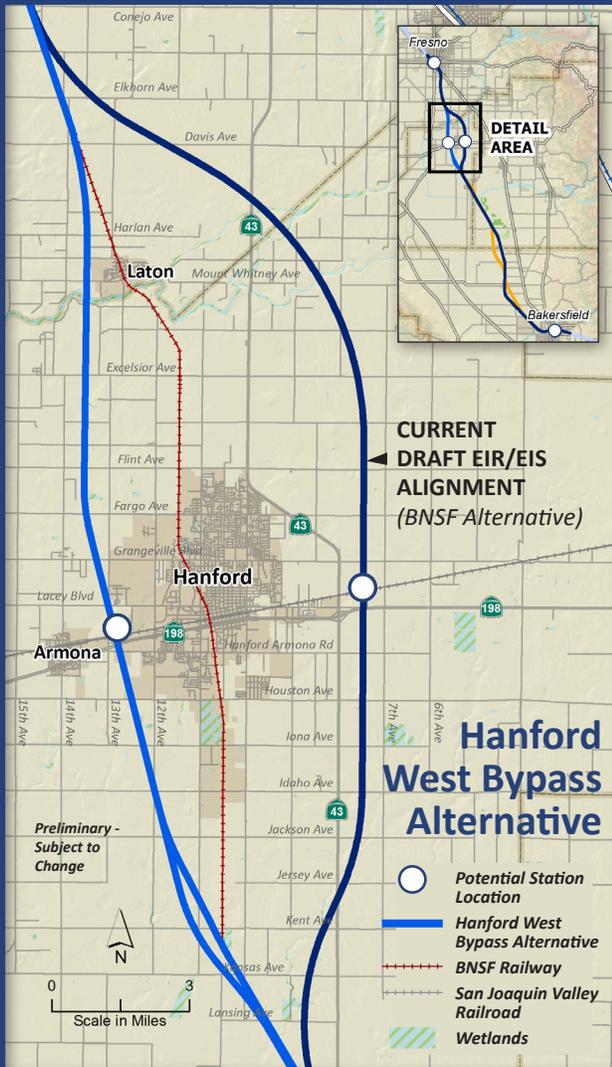


The Facts: The Hanford West Bypass

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) has introduced an alternative alignment, along with an alternative station location, for the Kings/Tulare region. The additional alignment is in response to requests from federal agencies and community concerns over having only one alignment option through Kings County to evaluate. The alternative alignment will bypass the city of Hanford to the west. The "Hanford West Bypass Alternative" will be formally introduced in a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement to be released in spring 2012. The revised document will have a formal public comment period.



Initially, two alignment alternatives were identified west of Hanford—the Hanford West Bypass (HW) and the Hanford West Bypass Option (HW Option). After considering these alignment options, the Hanford West Bypass alternative was selected and recommended for further study because this alternative:

- Avoids an area designated by the Laton Community for future growth.
- Impacts fewer natural resources (including wetlands), as well as fewer agricultural and residential parcels.
- Would have less residential noise and vibration effects.
- Would be further from two existing schools.
- Remains adjacent to the BNSF Railway for a greater distance (for approximately 7 miles more than the other route, the East Hanford Bypass).

The Authority evaluated two alternative station locations west of Hanford—a north option and a south option—located near the intersection of 13th Avenue and SR-198. The northern-most station location was recommended for further study because it:

- Provides the best access for connections to Amtrak, a regional bus service, and planned future commuter rail service on the San Joaquin Valley Railroad.
- Provides the greater opportunities for transit-oriented development, an approach to land use planning that maximizes access to public transit.

The Authority is engineering and studying the Hanford West Bypass alternative for inclusion in the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to be released in spring 2012. The study will include an impact analysis to determine how both the east and west alignment options near Hanford might affect communities and the environment.

Fresno to Bakersfield Supplemental Alternatives Analysis Report (December 2011) <http://goo.gl/SuztX>
Fresno to Bakersfield Draft Hanford West Bypass Map (November 2011) <http://goo.gl/5e360>