



Press Release

CONTACT:

Chad Vander Veen

916-403-6935

chad.vanderveen@hsr.ca.gov



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High-Speed Rail Project to Help Reduce California's Greenhouse Gas Emissions

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) today released a report on the benefits of the high-speed rail program on the reduction of California's greenhouse gas emissions. Specifically the report, required by Senate Bill 1029 (Budget Act of 2012), details the projected net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with the construction and operation of the high-speed rail system.

The report details how the high-speed rail system will provide a high-quality, environmentally friendly interregional transportation system and help reduce GHG emissions as well as deliver other environmental benefits including:

- An estimated 4 to 8 million metric tons of CO₂e saved by 2030
- Planting thousands of new trees across the Central Valley
- Significant contributions to California's goals in AB 32 and SB 375
- Zero net greenhouse gas emissions during construction
- Strict guidelines for sustainability best practices for design-build contracts to minimize environmental impacts and improve air quality

"Our commitment is to make positive environmental contributions from day one," said Authority CEO Jeff Morales. "High-speed rail will transform the state's transportation system while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and providing environmental benefits for years to come."

"This analysis of greenhouse gas reductions clearly demonstrates that the high-speed rail project is an integral part of California's overall climate goals," said California Air Resources Board Chairman Mary Nichols. "This project will serve in the near term as the backbone of a more sustainable growth strategy in the San Joaquin Valley, and over time will provide a climate-friendly transportation option linking southern and northern California."

"This report details important steps that the High-Speed Rail Authority is taking to curb greenhouse gas emissions in California and embrace renewable energy during operations," said Brian Kelly, Secretary of the California State Transportation Agency. "High-speed rail is a key part of meeting the state's mobility, safety and sustainability objectives."

The high-speed rail project is one element of a larger statewide rail modernization program designed to change the way people travel throughout the state, promoting sustainable, transit-oriented land-use that encourage active transportation, such as biking and walking and decreases the number of single-occupancy vehicle trips.

The Authority consulted with staff at the California Air Resources Board and the California Energy Commission to review and confirm the assumptions, models, and methodologies used to prepare this report.

A copy of the report is available here:

http://www.hsr.ca.gov/docs/about/legislative_affairs/HSR_Reducing_CA_GHG_Emissions_2013.pdf

About California High-Speed Rail Authority

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) is responsible for planning, designing, building and operation of the first high-speed rail system in the nation. California high-speed rail will connect the mega-regions of the state, contribute to economic development and a cleaner environment, create jobs and preserve agricultural and protected lands. By 2029, the system will run from San Francisco to the Los Angeles basin in under three hours at speeds capable of over 200 miles per hour. The system will eventually extend to Sacramento and San Diego, totaling 800 miles with up to 24 stations. In addition, the Authority is working with regional partners to implement a statewide rail modernization plan that will invest billions of dollars in local and regional rail lines to meet the state's 21st century transportation needs. To learn more visit the Authority's website at cahighspeedrail.ca.gov and join us on [facebook.com/CaliforniaHighSpeedRail](https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaHighSpeedRail) and follow us at twitter.com/cahsra/.

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