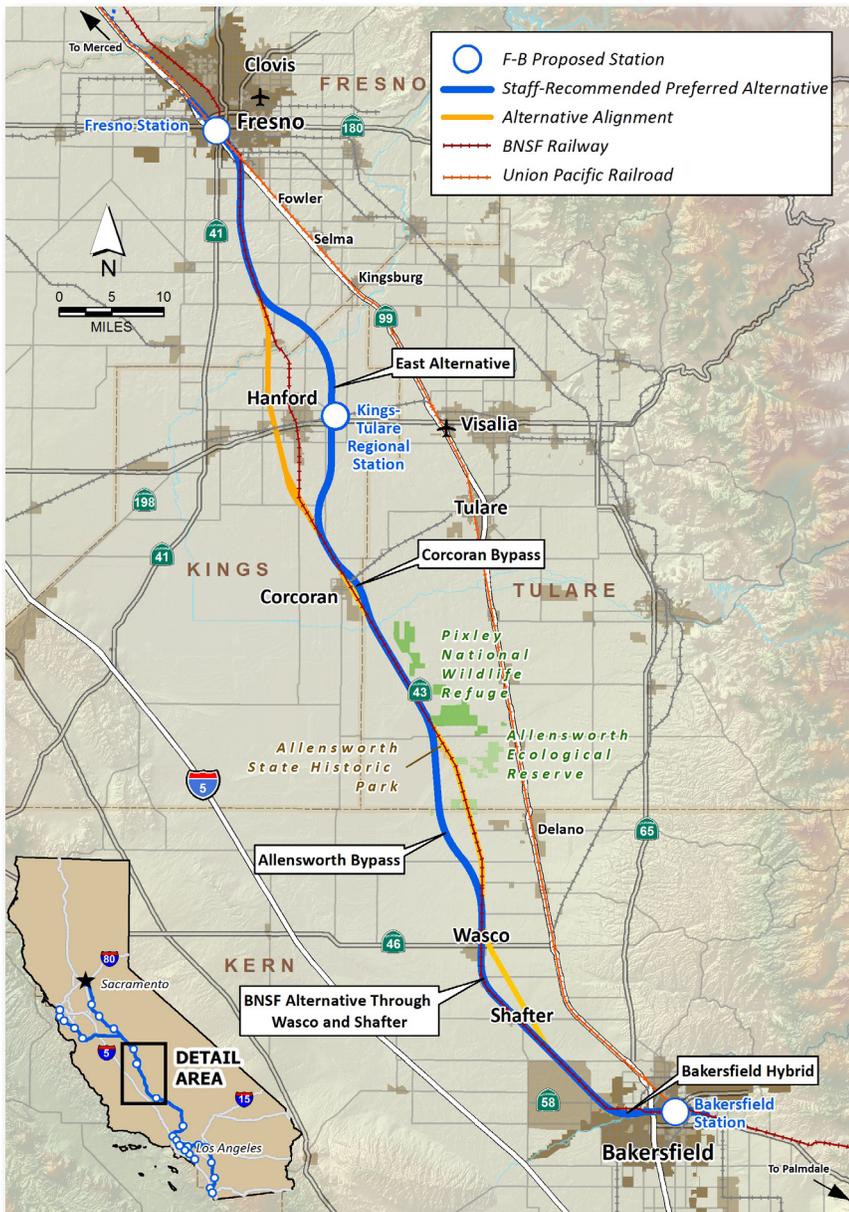


Available April 18, 2014: Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the Fresno to Bakersfield Section of the High-Speed Train Project

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) announce the availability of the jointly prepared Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIR/EIS) for the Fresno to Bakersfield Section of the California High-Speed Train Project.



Fresno to Bakersfield Section Update

The Fresno to Bakersfield Section of the High-Speed Rail system is approximately 114 miles long and has stations proposed in Fresno and Bakersfield, with an additional station to serve the Kings-Tulare County region. The project section begins north of downtown Fresno and ends southeast of downtown Bakersfield.

The Authority and FRA have prepared the Final EIR/EIS, which includes responses to comments received through the Draft EIR/EIS (released August 2011) and the Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS (released July 2012) review process. The Final EIR/EIS considers, describes, and summarizes the potential environmental impacts—at a project-level analysis—of the proposed high-speed rail project section between Fresno and Bakersfield. The Final EIR/EIS also identifies mitigation measures, design practices, and further measures to guide the system's development and to avoid, where possible, or minimize potential adverse environmental impacts.

Preferred Alternative:

The Final EIR/EIS identifies the Preferred Alternative as:

- Parts of the **BNSF Alternative**
- The **Corcoran Bypass** Alternative
- The **Allensworth Bypass** Alternative
- The **Bakersfield Hybrid** Alternative

Proposed Stations:

- **Downtown Fresno** on Mariposa Street
- **Downtown Bakersfield** on Truxtun Ave.
- **East of Hanford/west of Visalia**, near State Route 198 (Kings/Tulare Regional)

About the Environmental Review Process

The following locations will have a printed copy of the Final EIR/EIS, as well as a digital copy on CD. The Final EIR/EIS and related documents are also available on the Authority and the FRA websites at www.hsr.ca.gov and www.fra.dot.gov:

Fresno Public Library, Central
2420 Mariposa Avenue
Fresno

California High-Speed Rail Authority (Regional Office)
2550 Mariposa Mall, Suite 3015
Fresno

Kings County Library, Corcoran
1001-A Chittenden Avenue
Corcoran

Kings County Library, Hanford
401 N. Douty Street
Hanford

Tulare Public Library
475 North M Street
Tulare

Allensworth Community Center
8123 Avenue 36
Allensworth

Kern County Library, Beale Memorial
701 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield

Kern County Library, Shafter
236 James Street
Shafter

Kern County Library, Wasco
1102 7th Street
Wasco

California High-Speed Rail Authority Regional Office
770 L Street, Suite 800
Sacramento

Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue
Washington D.C.

How can I find responses to my comments in the Final EIR/EIS?

The Final EIR/EIS addresses all formal comments submitted on the Draft EIR/EIS and/or Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS. The responses to comments have been included in Volume IV (for comments on the Draft EIR/EIS) and Volume V (for comments on the Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS) of the Final EIR/EIS.

Everyone who submitted a formal comment on the Draft EIR/EIS and/or the Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS has been notified that the Final EIR/EIS is available and where it can be viewed. The Final EIR/EIS is available online at the Authority and the FRA websites at www.hsr.ca.gov and www.fra.dot.gov.

If you are unsure how to locate your comment and responses, please email us at fresno_bakersfield@hsr.ca.gov or call (866) 761-7755.

What is the process for certifying the Final EIR/EIS and approving the project?

The Final EIR/EIS is being made available to the public and public agencies pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) prior to Authority and FRA decisions at the conclusion of this project-level environmental review. The Authority is the project's lead agency under CEQA and the FRA is the project's lead agency under NEPA.

The Authority's Board of Directors will hold a two-day board meeting, May 6-7, 2014, to consider whether to certify the Final EIR/EIS under CEQA, which completes the CEQA process, and whether to approve the Fresno to Bakersfield section of the project.

AUTHORITY BOARD MEETINGS:

May 6, 2014, 3:00 p.m.

May 7, 2014, 10:00 a.m.

Public comment on the Final EIR/EIS

Staff presentation and Board vote

Fresno City Hall, 2600 Fresno Street, Fresno, CA 93721

Following the Authority Board of Directors' action on May 7, FRA will consider approving the Fresno to Bakersfield section of the high-speed rail project and issuing a Record of Decision under NEPA. This action is anticipated to occur in June 2014.

Meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities or who need assistance to participate. For translation services, or special needs, please call (866) 761-7755.



For more information, contact us at Fresno_Bakersfield@hsr.ca.gov, call (866) 761-7755, or visit www.hsr.ca.gov

Para más información—por favor vaya a www.hsr.ca.gov/espanol.html para información en español. Si quiere más información sobre el proyecto del tren de alta velocidad o si tiene cualquier pregunta, la Autoridad Ferroviaria de Alta Velocidad tiene intérpretes disponibles. Por favor llama al (866) 761-7755 y alguien estará disponible para ayudarle.