



PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

California High-Speed Rail – Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section

REVISED DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT / SUPPLEMENTAL DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

FOCUSED CONTENT ON TWO NEW CANDIDATE SPECIES AND MITIGATION FOR LIGHTING IMPACTS TO SPECIES

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) is issuing a limited revision of its previously published Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIR/EIS), pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being or have been carried out by the State of California pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated July 23, 2019 and executed by the Federal Railroad Administration and the State of California.

This document is entitled *Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement* (referred to below as the “Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS”).

The Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS will be available to the public on February 26, 2021.

The Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS is available online in PDF at the Authority’s website (www.hsr.ca.gov) or you can request an electronic copy by calling (866) 300-3044.

Following the Authority’s publication of the Draft EIR/EIS in February 2020, the Authority learned that the California Fish and Game Commission advanced the Southern California and Central Coast mountain lion (*Puma concolor*) populations to candidacy for listing under the California Endangered Species Act. The Authority also learned that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) determined that listing the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) under the federal Endangered Species Act is warranted, but that listing is precluded by other priorities; therefore, the monarch butterfly is now a candidate species under the Endangered Species Act. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will review the species’ status annually until a listing decision is made.

Both CEQA and NEPA provide guidance on the recirculation and supplementation of published environmental documents. Pursuant to pertinent requirements of both laws, the Authority, as lead CEQA and NEPA agency for the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section, is issuing this Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS limited to the portions of the Draft EIR/EIS to address new information about the mountain lion and the monarch butterfly. New information includes background information, impact analysis, and mitigation measures. In addition to providing new information about the mountain lion and monarch butterfly, the Authority has identified two new mitigation measures to address impacts to wildlife resulting from lighting during construction and during project operation.

Other information that has not been revised, including the methods for evaluating impacts under NEPA and the methods for determining significance under CEQA, as well as the appendices and technical reports, can be found in

the Draft EIR/EIS. The previously published Draft EIR/EIS, including Sections 3.7 and 3.19, is available on the Authority's website (www.hsr.ca.gov). The sections comprising the Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS are:

1. Summary
2. Section 3.7, Biological and Aquatic Resources
3. Section 3.19.5.7, Cumulative Impacts, Biological and Aquatic Resources

The Authority reviewed other sections of the Draft EIR/EIS and found, based on research and a review of the evidence, that no other substantive changes would be required. All revisions made in response to the updated information are being made in this Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS. All other subsections and appendices to Section 3.7 and the technical reports supporting Section 3.7 of the Draft EIR/EIS were not revised.

Section 3.7 includes new mitigation measures. These will be incorporated into the Mitigation Monitoring and Enforcement Plan to be included as part of the CEQA/NEPA decision documents.

HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES

As previously noticed in the February 2020 Notice of Availability for the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section Draft EIR/EIS, the Bakersfield to Palmdale Build Alternatives would cross one parcel that includes a site on hazardous waste lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code. This site is Air Force Plant 42 (US Air Force Installation Restoration Program (IRP) Site SS008 – Fuel Transfer Area, Air Force Plant 42, Palmdale, CA).

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD

The Authority is making this Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS available in accordance with CEQA and NEPA for **a 45-day review and comment period**. During the 45-day comment period, written comments may be submitted in the following ways:

- Via mail to “Bakersfield to Palmdale Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS Comment”, 355 S. Grand Avenue, Suite 2050, Los Angeles, CA 90071
- Through the Authority's website (www.hsr.ca.gov)
- Via email to Bakersfield_Palmdale@hsr.ca.gov with the subject line, “Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS Comment”
- Verbal comment on the direct line for the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section at (866) 300-3044.

The comment period is from **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26 TO MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021**. Comments must be received electronically or postmarked on or before **MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021**.

COPIES OF THE REVISED DRAFT EIR/SUPPLEMENTAL DRAFT EIS

Visit the Authority's website (www.hsr.ca.gov) to view and download the Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS. You may also request copy of the Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS by calling the Authority at (866) 300-3044.

Print and/or electronic copies of the Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS, as well as the previously published Draft EIR/EIS, will be available for review at the following locations during hours the facilities are open (open days/hours may be reduced for compliance with COVID-19 public health and safety directives):

- **Bakersfield**
 - Kern County Library, Beale Memorial Branch, 701 Truxtun Avenue
 - Kern County Library, Rathbun Branch, 200 W China Grade Loop
 - Kern County Library, Baker Branch, 1400 Baker Street
 - Bakersfield College, Grace Van Dyke Bird Library, 1801 Panorama Drive
 - California State University, Bakersfield, Walter W. Stiern Library, 9001 Stockdale Highway
 - Kern County Library, Wilson Branch, 1901 Wilson Road
 - Kern County Library, Holloway-Gonzales Branch, 506 E Brundage Lane
 - Kern County Library, Northeast Branch, 3725 Columbus Street
 - Kern County Library, Southwest Branch, 8301 Ming Avenue
- **Lancaster**
 - Antelope Valley College Library, 3041 W Avenue K

- County of Los Angeles Public Library, Lancaster Branch, 601 W Lancaster Boulevard),
- **Mojave**
 - Kern County Library, Mojave Branch, 15555 O Street
- **Palmdale**
 - County of Los Angeles Public Library, Lake Los Angeles Branch, 16921 E Avenue O [#A]
 - Palmdale City Library, 700 E Palmdale Boulevard
- **Quartz Hill**
 - County of Los Angeles Public Library, Quartz Hill Branch, 5040 W Avenue M 2
- **Rosamond**
 - Kern County Library, Wanda Kirk Branch, 3611 Rosamond Boulevard
- **Tehachapi**
 - Kern County Library, Tehachapi Branch, 212 S Green Street

Printed and electronic copies of the Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS also are available for review during business hours at the Authority's offices at 770 L Street, Suite 620, Sacramento, and 355 S Grand Avenue, Suite 2050, Los Angeles. Electronic copies of the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section technical reports are also available on request by calling the Authority office at (866) 300-3044.

Authority offices may have reduced open days/hours, as required by COVID-19 public health and safety directives. Please contact the Authority at (866) 300-3044 to make arrangements to view the Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS.

Other information that has not been revised, including the methods for evaluating impacts under NEPA and the methods for determining significance under CEQA, as well as the appendices and technical reports, can be found in the Draft EIR/EIS. The previously published Draft EIR/EIS, including Sections 3.7 and 3.19, is available on the Authority's website (www.hsr.ca.gov). The Authority does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will proceed reasonable accommodate to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities.

NEXT STEPS

The Authority anticipates publishing the Final EIR/EIS in May 2021. The Final EIR/EIS will include the Authority's responses to the CEQA and NEPA comments received on the previously circulated Draft EIR/EIS, in addition to responses to comments received on this Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS. The Authority Board will consider whether to certify the Final EIR and approve the preferred alternative pursuant to CEQA. The Authority, as NEPA lead agency, will also consider whether to issue a Record of Decision approving the preferred alternative, which best serves the purpose and need for the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section and minimizes economic, social, and environmental impacts.