

Submission 748 (Daniel Potter, April 22, 2020)

Bakersfield - Palmdale - RECORD #748 DETAIL

Status : Action Pending
Record Date : 4/22/2020
Response Requested : No
Affiliation Type : Individual
Submission Date : 4/22/2020
Interest As : Individual
Submission Method : Public Meeting - Oral Comment
First Name : Daniel
Last Name : Potter
Professional Title :
Business/Organization :
Address : 7828 West Ave. H
Apt./Suite No. :
City : Lancaster
State : CA
Zip Code : 93536
Telephone : 661-494-1187
Email : Daniel.R.Potter@hotmail.com
Cell Phone :
Email Subscription :
Add to Mailing List : Yes
Stakeholder Comments/Issues :
748-373 | Requested a copy of the Wildlife Corridor Assessment for B-P
EIR/EIS Comment : Yes

Response to Submission 748 (Daniel Potter, April 22, 2020)


748-373

At the request of the commenter, a USB flash drive containing the Wildlife Corridor Assessment for the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) was mailed on March 20, 2020 to the address provided. Additionally, a USB flash drive containing the Draft EIR/EIS was mailed on April 24, 2020.

Submission 800 (Whitney Weddell, March 5, 2020)

Bakersfield - Palmdale - RECORD #800 DETAIL

Status : Action Pending
Record Date : 5/4/2020
Affiliation Type : Individual
Submission Date : 3/5/2020
Interest As : Individual
Submission Method : Public Meeting - Written Comment
First Name : Whitney
Last Name : Weddell
Professional Title :
Business/Organization :
Address : 2403 Brazil Ave.
Apt./Suite No. :
City : Bakersfield
State : CA
Zip Code : 93313
Telephone : 661-204-3180
Email :
Cell Phone :
Email Subscription :
Add to Mailing List : Yes
EIR/EIS Comment : Yes
Attachments : Whitney Weddell_CommentForm.pdf (244 kb)

 CALIFORNIA High-Speed Rail Authority		COMMENT CARD PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY	
NAME: WHITNEY WEDDELL		DATE: 3/5/2020	
MEETING LOCATION: EDISON		AFFILIATION: interested person	
ADDRESS: 2403 BRAZIL AVE	EMAIL: N/A	PHONE: 661-204-3180	
CITY: BAKO	STATE: CA	ZIP: 93313	
*WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ADDED TO OUR MAILING LIST? (Check all that apply) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STATEWIDE <input type="checkbox"/> BAKERSFIELD TO PALMDALE			
**WOULD YOU LIKE THE AUTHORITY TO CONTACT YOU? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO			
COMMENTS: The interactive map displayed here sure would be useful if it were accessible through your website. As a teacher, I want to engage my students.			
<small> Any information you provide is voluntary. This form, including all the information you may provide, may be posted on the Authority's website and/or may be subject to disclosure pursuant to the California Public Records Act. *Please complete the email section if you want to be placed on the Authority's email list. **Please complete the contact information if you want someone from the Authority to contact you. Please only provide your preferred method of contact. </small>			

800-547


Response to Submission 800 (Whitney Weddell, March 5, 2020)

800-547

The commenter states that the "interactive map" displayed at the April 5, 2020 public meeting would be useful if accessible online. A parcel mapbook is available as Appendix 3.1-C of this Final EIR/EIS and can be downloaded; however, the interactive map displayed at the April 5, 2020 public meeting is not available on the Authority's website.

Submission 801 (Jacqueline Ayer, The Acton Town Council, March 4, 2020)

Bakersfield - Palmdale - RECORD #801 DETAIL	
Status :	Action Pending
Record Date :	5/4/2020
Affiliation Type :	Business and/or Organization
Submission Date :	3/4/2020
Interest As :	Business and/or Organization
Submission Method :	Public Meeting - Written Comment
First Name :	Jacqueline
Last Name :	Ayer
Professional Title :	
Business/Organization :	The Acton Town Council
Address :	
Apt./Suite No. :	
City :	
State :	CA
Zip Code :	00000
Telephone :	
Email :	atc@actontowncouncil.org
Cell Phone :	
Email Subscription :	
Add to Mailing List :	Yes
EIR/EIS Comment :	Yes
Attachments :	Jacqueline_Ayer_CommentForm.pdf (1 mb)



CALIFORNIA High-Speed Rail Authority **COMMENT CARD**
PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

NAME: *Jacqueline Ayer* DATE: *March 4, 2020*

MEETING LOCATION: *Lancaster* AFFILIATION: *The Acton Town Council*

ADDRESS: _____ EMAIL: *atc@actontowncouncil.org* PHONE: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

*WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ADDED TO OUR MAILING LIST? (Check all that apply) STATEWIDE BAKERSFIELD TO PALMDALE

**WOULD YOU LIKE THE AUTHORITY TO CONTACT YOU? YES NO

COMMENTS:

801-548 | *page 3.13-4 STATES THAT "ANY INCONSISTENCY WITH [ADOPTED General plans and community plans] is not considered an ~~environmental~~ environmental ~~the~~ impact under CEQA." Can you please provide*

Any information you provide is voluntary. This form, including all the information you may provide, may be posted on the Authority's website and/or may be subject to disclosure pursuant to the California Public Records Act.
*Please complete the email section if you want to be placed on the Authority's email list.
**Please complete the contact information if you want someone from the Authority to contact you. Please only provide your preferred method of contact.

Submission 801 (Jacqueline Ayer, The Acton Town Council, March 4, 2020) - Continued

THE STATUTORY BASIS FOR THIS CLAIM. In other words, please cite the adopted statute which clarifies that CHSRA ~~Does~~^{IS} NOT REQUIRED TO FIND THE HSR PROJECT WILL CREATE AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT IF IT IS INCONSISTENT WITH AN ADOPTED GENERAL PLAN OR COMMUNITY PLAN.

Jacqueline Ayer

March 4, 2020

Lancaster

The Acton Town Council

atc@actontowncouncil.org

page 3. 13-4 States that "any inconsistency with [adopted general plans and community plans] is not considered an environmental impact under CEQA". Can you please provide the statutory basis for this claim. In other words, please cite the adopted statute which clarifies that CHSRA is not required to find the HSR project will create an environmental impact if it is inconsistent with an adopted General plan or community plan.

Submission 801 (Jacqueline Ayer, The Acton Town Council, March 4, 2020) - Continued

local regulations. Rather, local and regional plans are reviewed to ensure consistency. Appendix 2-H in Volume II of the EIR/EIS includes a list of adopted regional and local plans and policies pertaining to station planning, land use, and development.

3.13.3 Regional and Local Policy Analysis

Because the HSR project is an undertaking of the Authority, in its capacity as state and federal lead agency, the Authority is neither subject to the jurisdiction of local governments nor required to be consistent with local plans. Council on Environmental Quality and FRA regulations nonetheless call for the discussion of any inconsistency or conflict of a proposed action with regional or local plans and laws. Where inconsistencies or conflicts exist, the Council on Environmental Quality and FRA require a description of the extent of reconciliation and the reason for proceeding if full reconciliation is not feasible (Code of Federal Regulations Title 40, Part 1506.2(d), and *Federal Register* Volume 64, Page 28545, 14(n)(15)). The CEQA Guidelines also require that an EIR discuss the inconsistencies between the proposed project and applicable general plans, specific plans, and regional plans (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15125(d)). It should be noted that any inconsistency with such plans is not considered an environmental impact under CEQA. An analysis of regional and local policies is included to provide the local planning context. Appendix 2-H, Detailed Plan Consistency Analysis, in Volume II of the EIR/EIS, contains local and regional policies, goals, and objectives related to station planning, land use, and development and describes the consistency of the project section with each local and regional policy.

Alternatives 1, 2, 3, and 5 were evaluated for consistency with applicable regional and local policies. Table 3.13-1 provides a summary of the HSR project's consistency with applicable local and regional policies, goals, and objectives pertaining to station planning, land use, and development. As shown in Table 3.13-1, all B-P Build Alternatives result in the same inconsistency related to the loss of housing stock. Residents displaced by the B-P Build Alternatives would be relocated to suitable replacement housing in the surrounding area. New housing would not be constructed unless sufficient replacement housing is unavailable; therefore, the B-P Build Alternatives are anticipated to result in a net loss of housing in the City of Lancaster, which would be inconsistent with a goal in the Housing Element of the Lancaster General Plan to preserve existing housing stock (City of Lancaster 2009).

Table 3.13-1 Local and Regional Plan Policy Consistency Analysis Summary

Plan	Segments	Alternatives	Consistency
Kern County General Plan (2007): Land Use, Open Space, and Conservation Element	Unincorporated Kern County	All B-P Build Alternatives	Consistent
Kern County General Plan (2007): Circulation Element	Unincorporated Kern County	All B-P Build Alternatives	Consistent
Kern County Economic Development Strategy Update (2010)	Unincorporated Kern County	All B-P Build Alternatives	Consistent
Kern County Bicycle Master Plan and Complete Streets Recommendations (2012)	Kern County	All B-P Build Alternatives	Consistent
Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan (2007): Land Use Element	City of Bakersfield, Unincorporated Kern County	All B-P Build Alternatives	Consistent
Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan (2007): Circulation Element	City of Bakersfield, Unincorporated Kern County	All B-P Build Alternatives	Consistent
Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan (2008): Housing Element	City of Bakersfield, Unincorporated Kern County	All B-P Build Alternatives	Consistent
Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan (2007): Conservation Element	City of Bakersfield, Unincorporated Kern County	All B-P Build Alternatives	Consistent

Response to Submission 801 (Jacqueline Ayer, The Acton Town Council, March 4, 2020)

801-548

This comment requests the legal basis for the statement on page 3.13-4 that an inconsistency with adopted general plans and community plans is not considered an environmental impact under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The discussion on page 3.13-4 is focused on the CEQA requirement to discuss any project inconsistencies with applicable general plans, specific plans, and regional plans, as required by CEQA Guidelines Section 15125, subdivision (d). The text states that the conflict with a plan itself is not considered an environmental impact because CEQA focuses on impacts on the physical environment, which the CEQA Guidelines define as the physical conditions which exist within the area affected by the project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance. The California Natural Resources Agency's Statement of Reasons accompanying the December 2018 CEQA Guidelines amendments explains that the focus is not the conflict per se, but on any environmental Section 3.13 provides this type of analysis.

Response to Submission 802 (Duane Spoelstra, March 4, 2020)

802-549

The commenter expresses concern about the length and uncertainty of the project schedule. The commenter's concern regarding the project schedule and the timeline for future construction is acknowledged. Refer to Response to Comment 784-674, contained in Chapter 26 of this Final EIR/EIS.

802-550

The commenter expresses concern about the effects of the project schedule on businesses and communities. The commenter's concern regarding the project schedule and the timeline for future construction is acknowledged. Refer to Response to Comment 784-674, contained in Chapter 26 of this Final EIR/EIS.

Submission 803 (Don Goeschl, Antelope Valley Audubon, March 4, 2020)

Bakersfield - Palmdale - RECORD #803 DETAIL	
Status :	Action Pending
Record Date :	5/4/2020
Affiliation Type :	Local Agency
Submission Date :	3/4/2020
Interest As :	Local Agency
Submission Method :	Public Meeting - Oral Comment
First Name :	Don
Last Name :	Goeschl
Professional Title :	President and Founder
Business/Organization :	Antelope Valley Audubon
Address :	
Apt./Suite No. :	
City :	
State :	CA
Zip Code :	00000
Telephone :	
Email :	
Cell Phone :	
Email Subscription :	
Add to Mailing List :	Yes
EIR/EIS Comment :	Yes
Attachments :	Goeschl_Transcript.pdf (62 kb)

803-551

803-552

1 (Pause)

2 MR. GOESCHL: Don Goeschl, D-O-N-A-L-D

3 G-O-E-S-C-H-L. I'm the President and Founder of Antelope

4 Valley Audubon.

5 Some of my concerns in the Antelope Valley is

6 preexamination of properties by environmentalists that are

7 more aware of the desert and its environment and its

8 habitats. Bringing in environmentalists from outside of

9 the areas, they don't know the desert. And I think that

10 before any real planning and environmental studies are

11 done, that local people should be involved in the

12 environmental planning.

13 Of course, I represent Audubon. We're more than

14 willing to work with anybody, as far as that goes, to help

15 protect the environment but yet not stop the development of

16 rails and solar power and so forth. That's not our

17 purpose. Our purpose is to preserve the valley the best

18 way we can, so we can leave something for our children's

19 children, which I think is very, very, very important. We

20 need to develop educational programs, which we do.

21 And my other concern is that, my personal

22 feeling, is that the people of the Antelope Valley are not

23 being made aware of, particularly, these planning meetings.

24 A little blurb in the local newspaper is not going to get

25 to the people.

California Reporting, LLC
(510) 224-4476

Submission 803 (Don Goeschl, Antelope Valley Audubon, March 4, 2020) - Continued

803-552

1 And the majority of our people in the Antelope
2 Valley, they work down in the San Fernando Valley, L.A. and
3 so forth, so they don't get home until 6:30, 7:30 at night,
4 so they don't get an opportunity to give input as to what
5 their feelings are with the development of solar and rail
6 systems. I think that's an issue that needs to be
7 addressed.

803-553

8 Definitely, the protection of wildlife, it
9 definitely needs to be studied more. There's an area that
10 the tracks are going through that's going through an
11 endangered species bird area. That's just an example of
12 one spot, which many, many places that the rails are going
13 through that need to be studied by local environmentalists
14 that knows what's in the desert, not what is in back alley,
15 downtown cities.

16 (The Community Open House public comment
17 concluded at 7:08 p.m.)

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California Reporting, LLC
(510) 224-4476

Response to Submission 803 (Don Goeschl, Antelope Valley Audubon, March 4, 2020)

803-551

The commenter asserts that local people familiar with the Antelope Valley desert habitat should be involved in the environmental planning and studies associated with the high-speed rail project.

Refer to Section 5, Survey Methodology, in the Biological and Aquatic Resources Technical Report (Authority 2018b) and Section 3.7.4, Methods for Evaluating Impacts, of this Final EIR/EIS for more detail regarding the biological resources survey and impact assessment methodologies. The surveys and impact analyses referenced in Section 3.7 of this Final EIR/EIS were conducted by qualified biologists familiar with current survey methodologies and protocols, regulatory agency standards, the plant communities in the Antelope Valley, and the target special-status species and their habitats. Further, the biological resources section of the EIR/EIS was prepared, in part, by biologists with previous field experience in the Antelope Valley. Chapter 9, Public and Agency Involvement, of this Final EIR/EIS includes detailed information on participation opportunities related to the environmental impact analysis process. Agency involvement included monthly meetings with regulatory agencies familiar with the project vicinity, including the Antelope Valley desert habitat, to obtain agency input on the biological technical reports.

803-552

Refer to Standard Response BP-Response-GENERAL-02: Public Outreach on the Draft EIR/EIS.

The commenter expresses concern that the people of Antelope Valley are not being made aware of meetings or do not have adequate opportunity to provide input. The commenter notes that many people in the Antelope Valley commute and return to their homes in the evening and are unable to attend evening meetings concerning the project. The commenter expresses concern about the level of communication with the public and with stakeholders.

Refer to BP-Response-General-02: Public Outreach on the Draft EIR/EIS.


803-553

The commenter states that protection of wildlife needs to be studied more and should be done by local environmentalists. The commenter further references an “endangered species bird area” through which the high-speed rail alignment crosses as an example of a location that needs more study but does not cite any specific inadequacies of the analysis included in Section 3.7, Biological and Aquatic Resources, of this Final EIR/EIS.

Impacts associated with special-status wildlife habitat and wildlife movement are described in Section 3.7.4 of this Final EIR/EIS and will be avoided, minimized, or mitigated in accordance with applicable regulations and agency requirements, as specified in Section 3.7.4.2, Impact Avoidance and Minimization Features, and Section 3.7.7, Mitigation Measures. Refer to Section 5, Survey Methodology, in the Biological and Aquatic Resources Technical Report (Authority 2018b) and Section 3.7.4, Methods for Evaluating Impacts, of the EIR/EIS for more detail regarding the biological resources survey and impact assessment methodologies.

Submission 811 (Rob Ball, Kern COG, March 4, 2020)

Bakersfield - Palmdale - RECORD #811 DETAIL	
Status :	Action Pending
Record Date :	5/7/2020
Affiliation Type :	Local Agency
Submission Date :	3/4/2020
Interest As :	Local Agency
Submission Method :	Public Meeting - Written Comment
First Name :	Rob
Last Name :	Ball
Professional Title :	
Business/Organization :	Kern COG
Address :	
Apt./Suite No. :	
City :	
State :	CA
Zip Code :	00000
Telephone :	
Email :	
Cell Phone :	
Email Subscription :	
Add to Mailing List :	Yes
EIR/EIS Comment :	Yes
Attachments :	811_RobBall_CmtCrd.pdf (41 kb) 811_RobBall_CmtCrd_Transcription.pdf (58 kb)



CALIFORNIA High-Speed Rail Authority

Suggestion/Comment Card

NAME: <u>Rob Ball</u>		DATE:
MEETING LOCATION: <u>EDISON/BAKERSFIELD</u>		AFFILIATION: <u>KERN COG</u>
ADDRESS:	EMAIL:	PHONE:
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ADDED TO OUR MAILING LIST? (Check all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> STATEWIDE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BAKERSFIELD TO PALMDALE		
COMMENTS: <u>MOVING OR GRADE SEPARATION NEEDS TO BE DESIGNED TO ACCOMMODATE HSR.</u> <u>1) FUTURE</u> <u>2) GROUNDWATER RECHARGE PLAN AVAILABLE FOR CAUSTIC (REBEK WASH).</u>		
WOULD YOU LIKE SOMEONE FROM THE AUTHORITY TO CONTACT YOU REGARDING YOUR COMMENT/QUESTION? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		

Submission 811 (Rob Ball, Kern COG, March 4, 2020) - Continued

Rob Ball

Edison/Bakersfield

Kern COG

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 811-802 | 1) Morning Dr. grade separation needs to be designed to accommodate HSR. |
| 811-803 | 2) Ground water recharge plan available for Caliente Creek Wash |

Response to Submission 811 (Rob Ball, Kern COG, March 4, 2020)

811-802

The commenter requests that the Morning Drive grade separation needs to be designed to accommodate the high-speed rail project. The State Route (SR) 184 Morning Drive grade separation is included as part of the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section description in Chapter 2 of this Final EIR/EIS. Section 2.4.2.2, Overview and Summary of Design Features, in this Final EIR/EIS, indicates that SR 184/Weedpatch Highway/Morning Drive crosses the proposed alignments approximately 2 miles east of Oswell Street and, as noted in Table 2-15 and Table 5.1 of the Kern Council of Governments 2018 Regional Transportation Plan, future plans have SR 184 running north-south and connecting SR 58 to SR 178 via a grade-separated, access-controlled facility. In response to comments received on the Draft EIR/EIS, the design of Morning Drive (SR 184) in Bakersfield was changed to allow for realignment of Edison Highway and better traffic circulation. The Preferred Alternative has been designed to allow SR 184 to go under Edison Highway, the Union Pacific Railroad tracks, and the high-speed rail tracks. For further discussion of this design modification, refer to Appendix 3.1-B of this Final EIR/EIS.

811-803

Groundwater recharge at Caliente Creek Wash is not proposed as part of the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section; therefore, preparation of a Groundwater Recharge Plan is not required. Groundwater, including recharge, in the Kern County Subbasin (the groundwater basin in the vicinity of Caliente Creek) is managed by the Kern Groundwater Authority and is not in the purview of the Authority.