



## **California High-Speed Rail** **BRIEFING: October 21, 2021 AGENDA ITEM #2**

**TO:** Board Chair Richards and Board Members  
**FROM:** Boris Lipkin, Northern California Regional Director  
**DATE:** October 21, 2021  
**RE:** Northern California Regional Update

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### **Summary**

Information Item to update the Board of Directors on activities in Northern California.

### **Background**

The Northern California region of the Phase 1 high-speed rail system spans approximately 135 miles through five counties from the Salesforce Transit Center in San Francisco to the Central Valley Wye at Carlucci Road in Merced County. Key decisions for the program in Northern California have included prior board actions identifying the Pacheco Pass as the preferred route between the Central Valley and the Bay Area, the adoption of the blended system for the Caltrain corridor, and the identification of preferred alternatives for the two Northern California project sections.

Staff anticipates major milestones to be reached in the first half of 2022 when the final environmental documents for the two Northern California project sections will be ready for Board consideration. This item is intended to provide an overview and background on regional activities ahead of those proposed actions.

### **Prior Board Action**

Significant Board Actions related to Northern California include the following:

1. **Resolution #HSRA 12-11**, which established the blended system on the Caltrain corridor as part of the implementation of high-speed rail on the San Francisco Peninsula
2. **Resolution #HSRA 12-24**, which certified the Bay Area to Central Valley 2010 Revised Final Program EIR and associated actions.
3. **Resolution #HSRA 13-02**, which approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Caltrain for the advancement of the blended system.
4. **Resolution #HSRA 16-21**, which approved an additional funding agreement for the Caltrain Electrification Project.
5. **Resolution #HSRA 16-22**, which approved the Authority's contribution toward the San Mateo Grade Separation Project.
6. **Resolution #HSRA 16-29**, which approved the Peninsula Corridor Funding Plan and Associated Independent Consultant Report.
7. **Resolution #HSRA 17-11**, which approved the Authority becoming a member of the Transbay Joint Powers Authority.

8. **Resolution #HSRA 19-05**, which identified Alternative 4 as the CEQA Preferred Alternative in the San José to Merced Project Section for the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement
9. **Resolution #HSRA 19-06**, which identified Alternative 4 as the NEPA Preferred Alternative in the San José to Merced Project Section for the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement
10. **Resolution #HSRA 19-07**, which identified Alternative A as the CEQA Preferred Alternative in the San Francisco to San José Project Section for the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement
11. **Resolution #HSRA 19-08**, which identified Alternative A as the NEPA Preferred Alternative in the San Francisco to San José Project Section for the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement

**Discussion**

This information item provides an update on activities in the Northern California Region. The presentation will include:

1. An overview of the Authority’s partnerships in the region including:
  - a. Salesforce Transit Center and Downtown Extension in San Francisco
  - b. Caltrain Electrification
  - c. The 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue Grade Separation Project in San Mateo
  - d. Diridon Integrated Station Concept Plan
  - e. Station and Station Area Planning in Gilroy
2. Updates on the status of the environmental process for the San Francisco to San Jose and San Jose to Merced project sections
3. Other important updates on the Authority’s activities in the region

**Legal Approval**

The Legal Office has reviewed, and this item complies with Authority policy.

**Budget and Fiscal Impact**

This is an informational item on the Northern California Region, and by itself, does not have a budget or fiscal impact.

REVIEWER INFORMATION	SIGNATURE
Reviewer Name and Title: Brian Annis Chief Financial Officer	Signature verifying budget analysis: Signed 10/13/2021
Reviewer Name and Title: Alicia Fowler Chief Council	Signature verifying legal analysis: Signed 10/13/2021

**Recommendations**

This is an informational item.

**Attachments**

Presentation