

9 PUBLIC AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

Since publication of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the following substantive changes have been made to this chapter:

- A footnote was added to this introduction regarding the updated Council on Environmental Quality regulations issued after release of the Draft EIR/EIS.
- This chapter was updated to include the circulation of the Draft EIR/EIS and the San Jose to Merced Project Section Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS (Revised/Supplemental Draft EIR/EIS) as well as describe the release of the Final EIR/EIS, including any additional public and agency meetings that have occurred.
- Section 9.4.2, Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding, was updated to include additional agreements related to funding commitments between the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) and the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board in 2016 and 2018.
- The status of the Checkpoint C Summary Report, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) concurrence on the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative, and USACE concurrence that the draft Compensatory Mitigation Plan may provide sufficient mitigation to meet the needs of the project under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act was updated in Section 9.4.9, Section 404 Consultation, Clean Water Act.
- The status of the biological assessment and biological opinion was updated in Section 9.4.10, Section 7 Consultation, Federal Endangered Species Act.

Pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)¹ and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a public and agency involvement program has been implemented as part of the environmental review process. This chapter describes the public and agency involvement efforts conducted for the preparation of the Draft EIR/EIS, the Revised/Supplemental Draft EIR/EIS, and this Final EIR/EIS. This chapter is organized chronologically, following the iterative alternative development and consideration process outlined in Section 2.5, Alternatives Considered during Alternatives Screening Process. It includes the EIR/EIS scoping period from 2009 through 2010, alternatives analysis document preparation from 2010 through 2013, the period when the analysis shifted focus to the San Jose to Central Valley Wye Project Extent (project or project extent) from October 2013 through 2016, and the period when the alternatives analysis process was reinitiated for further study in 2016 through the release of this Final EIR/EIS.

The public and agency involvement program includes the following efforts:

- Public Involvement and Outreach—Informational materials, including fact sheets; informational and scoping meetings, including town hall meetings, public and agency scoping meetings, meetings with individuals and groups, and presentations; and briefings
- Agency Involvement—Agency scoping meetings, interagency working group, meetings with agency representatives, and other agency consultation
- Publication and distribution—Notification and circulation of the Draft EIR/EIS and the Revised/Supplemental Draft EIR/EIS and notification of release of this Final EIR/EIS

The Authority posts meeting notices and public documents on its website, www.hsr.ca.gov. The website includes information about the California High-Speed Rail (HSR) System and the proposed HSR route. It also houses the Authority's most recent biennial business plans, newsletters, press releases, Authority Board of Directors meeting materials, recent

¹ The Council on Environmental Quality issued new regulations on July 14, 2020, effective September 14, 2020, updating the NEPA implementing procedures at 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500-1508. However, this project initiated NEPA before the effective date and is not subject to the new regulations, relying on the 1978 regulations as they existed prior to September 14, 2020. All subsequent citations to Council on Environmental Quality regulations in this environmental document refer to the 1978 regulations, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. 1506.13 (2020) and the preamble at 85 Fed. Reg. 43340.

developments, status of the environmental review process, Authority contact information, and related links. Authority meetings are open to the public, and one of the first items on each meeting agenda offers an opportunity for public comment, questions, or discussions.

The Authority posted the Draft EIR/EIS and technical appendices on its website. Technical reports were available in electronic form by request on the Authority's website. Materials on how to participate in the public comment period and navigate the extensive document were also available online. Notification materials also included contact information in Spanish, Mandarin, and Vietnamese. The Authority has also posted this Final EIR/EIS on its website. Additional information is provided in Section 9.5, Notification and Circulation of the Draft and Revised/Supplemental Draft EIR/EISs and Release of the Final EIR/EIS.

Throughout the environmental review process, questions were received through a variety of means, including the public information meetings and workshops listed above, as well as emails, phone calls, and one-on-one discussions with landowners. Some of the most frequently asked questions relate to right-of-way acquisition and compensation and the process for accessing property to conduct environmental surveys. Other commonly asked questions include alignment and station planning questions; concern for impacts on parks, public spaces, habitats, and wildlife corridors; impacts and mitigation strategies relating to aesthetics, traffic, safety, quality of life, and noise; timing for selection of a preferred alternative; completion of the environmental process and construction; intermodal connectivity; funding; and outreach to minority communities and low-income communities. The Authority addressed these and other questions, often referring to the environmental analysis already under way. Outreach staff logged unanswered questions for direct follow-up with the individual or organization that had inquired or as items to be addressed at future meetings. Upon request, the Authority offered to provide meetings and briefings.

9.1 Environmental Justice Outreach

The Authority has conducted specific outreach efforts to low-income populations and minority populations and to communities of concern. The purpose of this outreach is to increase the Authority's understanding of potential project effects on these populations. Low-income populations and minority populations were identified using 2010 data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Volume 2, Appendix 5-B, San Jose to Merced Project Section: Environmental Justice Engagement Summary Report, of this Final EIR/EIS contains a list of environmental justice–related interest groups that have been engaged through outreach efforts. The Authority has also contacted groups with interest in environmental and economic social justice issues and established minority organizations—such as Asian Americans for Community Involvement, California Wellness Foundation, Central California Environmental Justice Network, United Farmworkers—and neighborhood associations—such as Seven Trees Neighborhood Association (Monterey Corridor), Edenvale Great Oaks Plan Implementation Coalition (San Jose), and Delmas Park Neighborhood Association (San Jose)—as well as other civic and group leaders. The Authority's public outreach consultant organized on-the-ground outreach, such as information tables and booths at local community events and locations frequented by local residents. These locations were identified as an effective means to reach members of low-income communities and minority communities and included locations such as the Gilroy Downtown Library, Arteaga's Super Save Market in Gilroy, Edenvale Public Library in San Jose, and the Gardner Community Flea Market in San Jose. The full list of these events is provided in Appendix 9-A, Public and Agency Involvement.

Materials for open house meetings hosted by the Authority were translated into Spanish and Vietnamese, Spanish-language interpreters were available at all Open House meetings, and Spanish-, Mandarin- and Vietnamese-language materials were available at open house meetings. For additional information about environmental justice outreach to low-income populations and minority populations and communities of concern, see Chapter 5, Environmental Justice, and the Environmental Justice Engagement Summary Report.

9.2 Public and Agency Scoping (2009–2010)

Public scoping is an important element in the process of determining the focus and content of an EIR/EIS and provides an opportunity for public involvement. Scoping helps identify the range of actions, alternatives, environmental effects, and mitigation measures to be analyzed in depth. It also helps focus detailed study on those issues pertinent to the final decision on the proposed project. The Authority initiated pre-scoping public outreach activities in December 2008, including the development of project information materials, establishment of a project information phone line, early engagement with interested parties, and media communications.

9.2.1 Notices of Preparation, Notices of Intent, and Public Information Materials

On February 23, 2009, a Notice of Preparation (NOP) was distributed to the State Clearinghouse (SCH No. 2009022083); elected officials; local, regional, and state agencies; and the interested public to notify them of the Authority's intention to prepare an EIR for the San Jose to Merced Project Section (project section). A Notice of Intent (NOI) was published in the *Federal Register* on March 16, 2009, notifying the public of the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) intention to prepare an EIS for the Project Section. The NOP and NOI stated the purpose of the project, the project limits, a description of alternatives to be considered, the need for agency input, potential environmental impacts of the project, points of contact for additional information, and the dates and locations of the scoping meetings.

9.2.2 Scoping Meetings

The Authority and FRA have encouraged, and the Authority continues to encourage, the public to provide input throughout the environmental review process. As part of public outreach for the project section, the Authority conducted three public and agency scoping meetings, which were held between March 18 and March 26, 2009, in the cities of Merced, San Jose, and Gilroy. These March 2009 scoping meetings were an important component of the scoping process for both state and federal environmental review. Information regarding the scoping meetings is available online at www.hsr.ca.gov/Programs/Statewide_Rail_Modernization/Project_Sections/sanjose_merced.html.

All scoping meetings were held between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. to allow representatives from agencies and the public the opportunity to participate. The format of the scoping meetings was an open house, which allowed people to arrive at any time to obtain information and provide input. Agendas, fact sheets, and scoping period comment sheets were distributed at the scoping meetings. Section 9.2.3, Scoping Comments, and the *Final Scoping Report for the San Jose to Merced Project Section* (Authority and FRA 2009) summarize the comments received at the meetings.

The Authority mailed postcard notices of the scoping meetings to a comprehensive list of more than 2,500 adjacent property owners; various federal, state, and local agencies; elected officials; and other stakeholders. An electronic version of the postcard was emailed twice to a list of approximately 500 elected officials, government agencies, local government administrators, chambers of commerce, residents, previous meeting attendees, businesses, and community-based organizations who had provided email addresses for the Project Section mailing list. Approximately 190 letters were mailed to elected officials.

The Authority's website also announced the meetings. Notification of the scoping meetings was published in display ads in four local newspapers in March 2009: *Gilroy Dispatch*, *Morgan Hill Times*, *Weekend Pinnacle*, and *San Jose Mercury News*. Legal advertisements were placed in the papers of record for the three counties (Santa Clara, San Benito, and Merced) through which the project would pass; these papers are the *San Jose Mercury News* and *Merced Sun-Star*. Additionally, press releases were distributed to local media outlets.

Over 300 participants attended the scoping meetings. The dates, places, and summary of participants at the public and agency scoping meetings are as follows:

- March 18, 2009—Merced Community Senior Center, 755 West 15th Street, Merced—173 total attendees, including 38 public agencies and 4 elected officials/staff
- March 25, 2009—Roosevelt Community Center, Community Room B, 901 East Santa Clara Street, San Jose—92 total attendees, including 8 public agencies, 8 elected officials/staff, and 1 member of the media
- March 26, 2009—Gilroy Hilton Garden Inn, Ballroom A, 6070 Monterey Road, Gilroy—55 total attendees, including 3 public agencies and 3 elected officials/staff

In addition to these formal scoping meetings, the Authority and FRA sought public input on the scope of the environmental review through other means, including presentations, briefings, and workshops in 2008 and 2009. Table 9-1 summarizes the meetings held as part of the lead agencies' outreach effort during pre-scoping (outreach and notification activities in preparation for project scoping) and the scoping comment period.

Table 9-1 Public and Agency Meetings Summary, December 2008–August 2009

Organization/Individual	Number of Meetings Held	Meeting Dates
City of Gilroy	1	2/18/2009
City of Los Banos	1	2/19/2009
City of Morgan Hill	1	2/18/2009
City of Morgan Hill Planning Commission	1	4/14/2009
City of San Jose	2	12/18/2008, 2/28/2009
Delmas Park Neighborhood Action Committee	1	1/12/2009
Environmental groups (Committee for Green Foothills, Greenbelt Alliance, The Nature Conservancy, Silicon Valley Land Trust, Audubon Sierra Club)	1	3/3/2009
Gardner Advisory Council, San Jose	1	2/25/2009
Grassland Water District	1	2/26/2009
Greater Gardner, San Jose	1	4/29/2009
North Willow Glen, San Jose Neighborhood Association	1	3/24/2009
Scoping Meetings	3	3/18/2009, 3/25/2009, 3/26/2009
Silverleaf, San Jose Neighborhood Association	1	2/23/2009

9.2.3 Scoping Comments

The scoping meetings and comments received on the NOI/NOP helped the lead agencies identify general environmental issues to be addressed in the EIR/EIS. The scoping process identified issues with the proposed alignments and stations, suggestions for new or modified alignments and stations, and issues of potential concern related to the project. The scoping comment period for the environmental process lasted from February 23 to May 1, 2009. A total of 168 written and verbal (i.e., provided to a court reporter at a scoping meeting) comments were received.

Issues raised in scoping comments addressed the following resource topics and other concerns:

- Transportation
- Air quality
- Noise and vibration

- Electromagnetic fields and electromagnetic interference
- Public utilities and energy
- Biological resources and wetlands
- Hydrology and water resources
- Geology, soils, seismicity
- Hazardous wastes, materials
- Safety and security
- Socioeconomics, communities, and environmental justice
- Local growth, station planning, and land use
- Agricultural land
- Parks, recreation, and open space
- Aesthetics and visual quality
- Cultural resources
- Cumulative impacts
- Purpose and Need
- Public and agency involvement

The San Jose to Merced Project Section Final Scoping Report (Authority and FRA 2009) is available by request via the Authority's website.

9.3 Alternatives Analysis Process (2010–2016)

From 2010 through 2013, the alternatives analysis process used conceptual planning and environmental and engineering information to identify feasible and practicable alternatives to carry forward for environmental review and preliminary engineering design in the EIR/EIS. The Authority, in cooperation with the FRA, began the environmental review process for the San Jose to Merced Project Section consistent with its programmatic decisions as established in the *San Francisco Bay Area (Bay Area) to Central Valley High-Speed Train Final Program EIR/EIS* (Authority and FRA 2008) and the *Bay Area to Central Valley High-Speed Train (HST) Partially Revised Final Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR)* (Authority 2012).

Public and agency input on issues to be studied; city and county transportation, land use and planning information, and input on the range of alternatives provided valuable information to assist in evaluating the alternatives. With consideration of the public and agency comments received during the planning and initial scoping processes, various design options for the main alternatives for HSR alignment and station and maintenance facility sites were considered and are detailed in the *San Jose to Merced Section Preliminary Alternatives Analysis Report (PAA)* (Authority and FRA 2010) and the subsequent *San Jose to Merced Section Supplemental Alternatives Analysis Report (SAA)* (Authority and FRA 2011a and 2011b). The intent of the PAA and SAA was to identify the range of potentially feasible alternatives to analyze in the EIR/EIS. They documented the preliminary evaluation of alternatives, indicating how each of the alternatives would meet the purpose for the HSR project; how evaluation criteria were applied and used to determine which alternatives to carry forward for preliminary design and detailed environmental analysis; and which alternatives should not be carried forward for further analysis. While the alternatives analysis process considered multiple criteria, it emphasized the project objective of maximizing the use of existing transportation corridors and available rights-of-way to the extent feasible. Those alternatives that were not carried forward by the Authority and FRA had greater direct and indirect environmental effects, were impracticable, or failed to meet the project purpose.

The PAA and SAA were presented to the Authority Board of Directors during their regular, monthly Board meetings. These hearings provided members of the public with the opportunity to provide comments directly to the Board of Directors regarding the Project Section and alternatives analysis. The PAA was presented and discussed at the June 3, 2010, Board meeting and the SAA was presented and discussed at the May 5, 2011, Board meeting. It should be noted that members of the public may address the Board of Directors at the beginning of any Board meeting with a topic related to this Project Section.

In August 2011, the Authority and FRA confirmed the Purpose and Need for the Project Section (Checkpoint A). Between June 2010 and July 2011, the Authority and FRA conducted an alternatives analysis, and in September 2013 the Authority and FRA issued the *Checkpoint B Report in Support of the San Jose to Merced Section, Section 404(b)(1) Analysis and Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement* (Authority and FRA 2013). The Checkpoint B report was largely drawn from the work completed for the PAA and SAA. The USACE and USEPA concurred in August and September 2014, respectively, with the alternatives recommended for inclusion in the EIR/EIS at the time. Table 9-2 summarizes the public and agency meetings held during the PAA and SAA process.

Table 9-2 Public and Agency Meetings Summary, September 2009–September 2013

Organization/Individual	Number of Meetings Held	Meeting Dates
ACE	1	2/15/2013
Alternatives Analysis Community Workshop, San Jose	1	3/2/2010
Bay Area Council	1	7/25/2012
Bay Area/MTC Peninsula Working Group	1	2/13/2013
California Department of Conservation	1	1/4/2010
California Department of Fish and Game (now CDFW)	2	9/23/2009, 8/30/2010
California Society of Professional Engineers, Monterey Bay Branch	1	11/18/2010
California State Rail Plan Open House (informational table)	1	2/14/2013
Caltrain	5	6/23/2010, 10/5/2010, 2/8/2013, 3/4/2013, 8/2/2013
Caltrans	5	10/14/2009, 6/21/2010, 12/10/2010, 12/22/2010, 1/4/2011
Caltrans NAAC	6	5/16/2012, 6/13/2012, 8/1/2012, 3/20/2013, 5/8/2013, 7/31/2013
Campbell United Methodist Church Men's Club	1	3/14/2011
Capitol Corridor	1	2/15/2013
CCID	1	7/7/2010
Chowchilla Water District	1	7/6/2010
City of Dos Palos	1	5/18/2010
City of Gilroy	16	9/17/2009, 12/15/2009, 3/3/2010, 4/14/2010, 6/28/2010, 9/28/2010, 10/18/2010, 12/16/2010, 12/20/2010, 12/28/2010, 2/17/2011, 3/22/2011, 9/28/2011, 4/23/2012, 1/24/2013, 4/12/2013
City of Los Banos	1	5/18/2010
City of Morgan Hill	8	10/7/2009, 3/10/2010, 10/20/2010, 12/20/2010,

Organization/Individual	Number of Meetings Held	Meeting Dates
		1/3/2011, 1/14/2011, 2/23/2011, 4/23/2012
City of San Jose	9	10/5/2009, 10/12/2009, 12/15/2009, 1/5/2010 (2), 1/8/2010, 3/2/2010, 10/27/2010, 1/14/2011
City of San Jose District 2	1	2/8/2010
Congressman Jeff Denham's staff	1	2/12/2013
Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren's staff	1	5/6/2011
Diridon Good Neighbor Committee	4	12/7/2009, 2/1/2010, 3/17/2010, 5/26/2010
Diridon Station Area Plan Community Workshop	1	3/27/2010
Diridon Station Area Plan Visioning Workshop	1	9/12/2009
Diridon Station Joint Policy Advisory Board	3	9/17/2010, 6/15/2012, 11/16/2012
Diridon Station Working Group	1	10/28/2009
Dos Palos cotton gin	1	5/1/2013
DWR	2	12/1/2009, 3/29/2010
Environmental Groups, San Jose	1	6/11/2012
FRA	1	11/12/2009
Gene Zanger, Casa de Fruta	1	10/7/2010
Gilroy Chamber of Commerce	5	11/13/2009, 2/12/2010, 7/9/2010, 9/7/2010, 1/14/2011
Gilroy City Council	4	11/2/2009, 2/1/2010, 5/3/2010, 7/19/2010
Gilroy Mayor Al Pinheiro	2	4/22/2011, 9/28/2011
Gilroy Mayor Don Gage	1	1/24/2013
Gilroy South County Sunrise Rotary	1	1/17/2012
Gilroy Unified School District	1	11/7/2011
Grassland Water District	1	11/17/2009
Greenbelt Alliance	1	8/28/2010
Holsclaw Road Contacts	1	9/5/2012
HP Pavilion (now SAP Center)	2	11/12/2009, 7/20/2010
International Right of Way Agents	2	2/13/2013, 4/3/2013
Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Clara County	1	6/28/2012
Los Banos Unified School District	1	6/17/2010
Lower San Joaquin Levy District	1	5/1/2013

Organization/Individual	Number of Meetings Held	Meeting Dates
Madera County Board of Supervisors	1	6/15/2010
Mayors Meeting	1	2/22/2010
McCarthy Business Park	1	5/5/2011
Merced County	1	4/9/2010
Merced County Farm Bureau	1	7/22/2010
Millpond Mobile Homes Community	1	1/20/2011
Mineta Transportation Institute Student Group	1	2/28/2013
Morgan Hill and Gilroy joint HSR task force	3	12/15/2010, 1/25/2011, 4/22/2011
Morgan Hill City Council	1	11/3/2010
Morgan Hill Mayor Steve Tate	1	4/22/2011
Morgan Hill Unified School District	1	12/6/2012
MTC Board of Commissioners	1	3/20/2013
NAHC	1	6/13/2012
NMFS	2	1/5/2010, 8/30/2010
Open House Meetings	13	12/17/2009, 1/11/2010, 1/12/2010, 5/5/2010, 5/6/2010, 6/15/2010, 6/17/2010, 6/28/2010, 7/15/2010, 7/21/2010, 5/19/2011, 5/25/2011, 6/13/2011
Pacheco Pass Property Owners	2	10/7/2010, 12/20/2010
Panoche Water and Drainage District	1	7/7/2010
Peninsula Rail Program	1	1/14/2010
Preserve Our Heritage	5	9/15/2010, 3/22/2011, 5/17/2011, 5/27/2011, 6/24/2011
Public Meetings on Alternatives Analysis	3	10/6/2009, 10/8/2009, 10/12/2009
Reclamation	1	10/21/2010
Rotary Club of Gilroy	1	11/24/2009
RWQCB	1	9/23/2009
Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce	1	1/26/2012
San Benito Council of Government	1	2/7/2013
San Benito County	1	10/14/2010
San Jose Chamber of Commerce	3	5/16/2012, 5/18/2012, 6/29/2012
San Jose City Council	1	9/14/2010
San Jose Spanish-speaking group	1	11/7/2011
San Jose Visual Design Guidelines Community Working Group	9	3/7/2011, 3/10/2011, 4/11/2011, 4/14/2011, 5/14/2011, 5/23/2011, 5/26/2011, 6/28/2011, 7/18/2011

Organization/Individual	Number of Meetings Held	Meeting Dates
San Martin Neighborhood Alliance	1	7/13/2010
San Martin Stakeholder Meeting	1	9/20/2012
San Mateo County Economic Development Association	1	7/25/2012
Santa Clara County	7	6/10/2010, 8/16/2010, 11/17/2010, 12/10/2010, 12/23/2010, 1/19/2011, 3/8/2011
Santa Clara County Fair	1	8/5/2011–8/7/11
Santa Clara County Supervisor Dave Cortese	1	3/20/2013
Santa Clara County Supervisor Don Gage	2	2/1/2010, 6/10/2010
Santa Clara County Supervisor Ken Yeager's staff	1	3/27/2012
Santa Clara County Supervisor Mike Wasserman	2	1/19/2011, 12/21/2012
Santa Clara County Supervisor Mike Wasserman's staff	3	4/25/2012, 6/28/2012, 12/21/2012
SCVWD	3	1/20/2010, 11/18/2010, 11/29/2010
Shasta-Hanchett Park Neighborhood Association	1	1/30/2010
Silicon Valley Economic Development Alliance	1	5/4/2011
Silicon Valley Leadership Group	1	7/25/2012
Silver Leaf Neighborhood Association	2	6/25/2011, 6/9/2012
Soap Lake Floodplain	1	1/20/2010
South Bay Transportation Officials Association	1	6/11/2013
South County Joint Planning Advisory Committee	2	6/10/2010, 9/9/2010
South San Jose residents	1	11/18/2009
South Santa Clara County Community Engagement Workshops	8	1/25/2011, 1/27/2011, 3/29/2011, 3/30/2011, 6/16/2011, 6/23/2011, 9/29/2011, 10/11/2011
South Santa Clara County Community Meeting hosted by Supervisor Mike Wasserman	1	3/22/2011
SPUR	1	4/29/2010
Stakeholder Meeting, Chowchilla	1	1/9/2012
TAMC	4	4/5/2010, 8/1/2011, 2/4/2013 (2)
Taste of Morgan Hill	1	9/24/2011–9/25/2011
Technical Working Group, Gilroy	5	9/3/2009, 12/16/2009, 6/28/2010, 4/26/2012, 8/15/2012
Technical Working Group, Merced	5	9/10/2009, 12/14/2009, 6/17/2010, 4/26/2012, 8/15/2012
The Nature Conservancy	1	10/7/2009

Organization/Individual	Number of Meetings Held	Meeting Dates
Town Hall Meetings, San Jose	2	11/4/2010, 12/8/2011
United Architects of the Philippines	1	2/16/2013
UPRR	4	11/18/2009, 12/18/2009, 2/9/2010, 8/20/2013
USACE	4	9/23/2009, 10/5/2009, 2/10/2010, 11/29/2010
USEPA	2	10/5/2009, 2/10/2010
USFWS	2	9/23/2009, 8/30/2010
VTA	5	11/13/2009, 1/12/2010, 7/29/2010, 10/13/2010, 2/19/2013

ACE = Altamont Corridor Express
 Caltrans = California Department of Transportation
 CCID = Central California Irrigation District
 CDFW = California Department of Fish and Wildlife (from 1/1/2013)
 DWR = California Department of Water Resources
 FRA = Federal Railroad Administration
 HSR = high-speed rail
 MTC = Metropolitan Transportation Commission
 NAAC = Native American Advisory Committee
 NAHC = Native American Heritage Commission
 NMFS = National Marine Fisheries Service
 RWQCB = Regional Water Quality Control Board

SCVWD = Santa Clara Valley Water District
 SPUR = San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association
 TAMC = Transportation Agency for Monterey County
 UPRR = Union Pacific Railroad
 USACE = U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 Reclamation = U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation
 USEPA = U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 VTA = (Santa Clara) Valley Transportation Authority

Following the completion of the Checkpoint B analysis in 2013, the Authority's efforts focused on the Central Valley Wye Project Extent and preparing a project-level supplemental EIR/EIS for the Central Valley Wye Project Extent. During this time, however, the outreach efforts for the San Jose to Central Valley Wye Project Extent did not stop, as illustrated in Table 9-3. The Authority reinitiated work on the Project Section in late 2015, with a focus on increased outreach efforts.

Table 9-3 Public and Agency Meetings Summary, October 2013–February 2016 Meeting

Organization/Individual	Number of Meetings Held	Meeting Dates
Agency Tour	1	11/19/2014
Caltrans NAAC	10	10/23/2013, 3/12/2014, 5/28/2014, 8/27/2014, 10/17/2014, 11/12/2014, 2/18/2015, 5/13/2015, 8/12/2015, 11/18/2015
City of San Jose	1	12/17/2015
NAHC	1	1/17/2014
Open House Meetings	2	9/15/2015, 9/23/2015
USACE	3	11/12/2013, 11/26/2013, 12/3/2013
USEPA	3	11/12/2013, 11/26/2013, 12/3/2013
San Jose Historical Landmarks Commission	1	12/17/2015
San Jose Mayor Liccardo	1	2/9/2016

Caltrans = California Department of Transportation
 NAAC = Native American Advisory Committee
 NAHC = Native American Heritage Commission
 USACE = U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

USEPA = U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

9.3.1 Public Information Meetings and Materials during the Alternatives Analysis Process

Public information meetings were held during the alternatives analysis process to inform the public about the recommendations of the alternatives analysis. Various meeting formats, such as open houses, formal presentations, and question and comment sessions, were used to present information and provide opportunities for input by participants. The Authority has posted project information and announcements on their website. Table 9-2 lists the public meeting dates held during the 2010–2013 alternatives analysis process.

The PAA and SAA provided information to the public regarding the alternatives analysis process, the initial range of alternatives considered, and the criteria for evaluating those alternatives (Authority and FRA 2010, 2011). Detailed information about the alternatives analysis process was displayed at the public meetings, as well as any updates to the alignment. In addition to the public information meetings, one-on-one briefings and small group meetings were held throughout the process. Another element of the outreach was to provide updates and presentations to clubs, organizations, and business owners, as well as the Counties of Santa Clara, San Benito, and Merced and the Cities of San Jose, Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and Los Banos to facilitate an inclusive and transparent process.

Throughout the alternatives analysis process, the Authority met with agencies, the general public, and small groups. These meetings included technical working group (TWG) meetings, eight public information meetings, a community workshop and panel discussion, and a Gilroy City Council study session, all held between September 2009 and May 2010. The purpose of these meetings was to explain the alternatives analysis process, share the results of preliminary studies with the public and agencies, and receive feedback.

Following the release of the PAA on June 3, 2010 (Authority and FRA 2010), the Authority held more than 80 meetings with elected officials and staff, other key stakeholders, and the public. These meetings included two TWG meetings in Gilroy and Merced, and two visual design community working group (CWG) meetings in San Jose. The Authority also held five public information meetings and two additional public outreach meetings in Gilroy and Morgan Hill between June 2010 and March 2011.

Following issuance of the May 2011 SAA (Authority and FRA 2011), the Authority held several CWG meetings in San Jose and two community workshops in Morgan Hill and Gilroy. Three public open house meetings were also held to review the contents of the SAA report with the public. The meetings were held in Gilroy (May 19, 2011), Merced (May 25, 2011), and Los Banos (June 13, 2011).

The following describes the issues consistently raised during the alternatives analysis process:

- **Consultation and Outreach**—Commenters wanted to know with which local agencies the Authority was consulting. Commenters were interested in how public and agency input will be elicited and incorporated, including what type of comments were being solicited at the current stage of the study and how public and agency comments will be incorporated. Some commenters expressed concern that the engagement effort in Gilroy (particularly east of U.S. Highway 101), Morgan Hill, and the surrounding unincorporated area needed to be more comprehensive.
- **Support or Opposition**—Commenters generally expressed support for the HSR system; however, some were concerned about the potential impact on homes. Some commenters expressed concern over the need for HSR. Some commenters indicated the Altamont Pass alignment would be a shorter route, would destroy less existing infrastructure, and would be less expensive than the route over Pacheco Pass.
- **Business Plan (Funding, Ridership, and Schedule)**—Commenters expressed concerns about overall project funding, the decision-making timeline, and the age of the ridership

figures. In addition, commenters wanted more information about the anticipated funding the project would receive from the federal government, and the cost differential of the various vertical profiles (tunnel, trench, at-grade, aerial) and horizontal profiles.

- **Right-of-Way**—Commenters wanted to know the anticipated right-of-way acquisition requirements and planned coordination for right-of-way acquisition for the project as a whole.
- **Project Operations**—Commenters asked for information about train operations, including hours of operation, frequency, and speed.
- **Alternatives**—In the San Jose area, commenters wanted to know the plan for coordinating the San Jose to Merced and San Francisco to San Jose project sections for planning and analysis of the San Jose Diridon Station. Commenters asked whether the EIR/EIS would identify a preferred alignment alternative. Commenters questioned the feasibility of the Altamont Pass crossing. Commenters requested consistency in the approach to addressing rail crossings in the San Jose to Merced Project Section and the Merced to Fresno Project Section EIR/EIS.
- **Traffic Impacts**—Commenters requested information on traffic impacts and the magnitude of the access road and temporary construction easements that would be required.
- **Environmental Impacts and Impacts on Agricultural Lands**—Commenters wanted impacts on agricultural lands and operations to be addressed in the EIR/EIS. They expressed further concerns about impacts on wildlife and the environment.
- **Noise and Vibration Impacts**—Meeting attendees expressed concerns about noise and vibration impacts from both construction and operation of the project. Commenters discussed impacts of sound and electromagnetic waves on the environment and on animals.
- **Specific Issues by Subsection**—Commenters expressed concerns regarding alignments or other HSR facilities within specific subsections. *Checkpoint B Summary Report Addendum 3* (Authority and FRA 2017) describes these concerns.

The PAA and SAA (Authority and FRA 2010, 2011) are available by request via the Authority's website.

When the focus shifted away from the Project Section in late 2013, public outreach efforts continued to keep the public and local agencies informed. Table 9-3 summarizes the public and agency meetings held during this time.

9.3.2 Technical Working Group Meetings during the Alternatives Analysis Process

Throughout development of project alternatives, the Authority held several rounds of TWG meetings. The TWGs were composed of representatives of city and county governments, school districts, water and transportation districts, and other agency representatives. The purpose of these groups was to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas during the course of the alternatives analyses. Table 9-2 lists the TWG meetings held during the alternatives analysis process.

After the scoping period ended, the initial range of alternatives was developed. The first round of TWG meetings took place in Gilroy (September 3, 2009) and Merced (September 10, 2009) to receive input on the alternatives during the development of the PAA. These TWGs provided input on the alternatives and information about city and county land use, transportation, and other planning projects, as well as updates to their boards or councils.

A second round of TWG meetings took place in December 2009 in Merced (December 14, 2009) and Gilroy (December 16, 2009) to share the preliminary studies from the alternatives analysis process and the recommendations from the FRA/Authority workshop and Board of Directors meeting. During each of these meetings, the Authority presented the alternatives analysis

process and the current alignment alternatives under consideration and responded to comments and questions.

A third round of TWG meetings was held in June 2010 after the release of the PAA. Meetings took place in Merced (June 17, 2010) and Gilroy (June 28, 2010) to share alignment alternatives and station location and design options with local, transportation, and resource agencies throughout the corridor.

9.3.3 Environmental Resource Agency Meetings during the Alternatives Analysis Process

Throughout the alternatives analysis process, the Authority coordinated with federal and state environmental resource agencies. Meeting participants included California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), USACE, Caltrans, and others. Table 9-2 and Table 9-3 list these resource agency meetings.

9.3.4 Tribal Coordination Meetings

Native American outreach and consultation efforts have been ongoing at key milestones throughout the project planning process from 2010 to 2017. Both federally recognized tribes and non-federally recognized tribes were notified of the initiation of the Section 106 process and were consulted during the preparation of the technical studies and memorandum of agreement (MOA).

A Programmatic Agreement (PA) was executed in July 2011 to satisfy the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for the California HSR System. A PA is a document that records the terms and conditions agreed upon to resolve the potential adverse effects of a complex project, in accordance with Section 106 Part 800.14(b). The signatories of the PA include the FRA, the Authority, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the State Historic Preservation Officer. The Surface Transportation Board and the USACE have subsequently been invited to become signatories. Pursuant to the PA, FRA is responsible for conducting government-to-government consultation with federally recognized Native American tribes.

Volume 2, Appendix 3.17-B, Cultural Resources – San Jose to Merced Project Section Tribal Outreach and Consultation Efforts 2009–2019, details the tribal coordination meetings held for the project section.

9.4 Further Outreach, Consultation, and Alternatives Refinement (2016–2021)

Following reinitiation of the Project Section in 2015 and adoption of the 2016 Business Plan (Authority 2016), the Authority conducted additional community outreach and engineering along the corridor. The 2016 Business Plan described the Authority’s decision to shift its early focus from the project sections in Southern California to those in Northern California with a goal of initiating Central Valley to Silicon Valley (Valley-to-Valley) service. During the development of the EIR/EIS, between 2016 and 2019, the Authority and FRA reached out to the public, stakeholders, and agencies to solicit their input and concerns about project alternatives and to consider refinements of the prior alternatives or the addition of new alternatives responsive to those concerns. The following sections provide details of these activities.

The Authority and FRA conducted additional community outreach and engineering along the corridor from 2016 through 2019. During this time, they also continued to consult with environmental regulatory agencies, land-owning state and federal agencies, and stakeholders. This additional outreach led to the development of new design options in the Monterey Corridor, Morgan Hill and Gilroy, and Pacheco Pass Subsections.

Given the new alternatives development; the new public, agency, and stakeholder input; and the new alternatives developed and considered, the Authority and FRA developed the *Checkpoint B Summary Report Addendum 3* (Authority and FRA 2017) to address the new alternatives and

reconsideration of alternatives from preceding evaluations. The Authority and FRA recommended removing five of the six design options in the Morgan Hill and Gilroy Subsection, two of the design options in the Pacheco Pass Subsection, and the Coyote Valley A and B maintenance of equipment and maintenance of infrastructure facilities that were previously carried forward in the *Checkpoint B Report in Support of the San Jose to Merced Section, Section 404(b)(1) Analysis and Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement* (Authority and FRA 2013). The Authority and FRA recommended adding new design options in the Monterey Corridor, Morgan Hill and Gilroy, and Pacheco Pass Subsections. The analysis in Chapters 4 through 8 of the *Checkpoint B Summary Report Addendum 3* (Authority and FRA 2017) discusses the design options; Chapter 11 of the Addendum summarizes the rationales for dismissing and adding design options. Collectively, the Addendum recommended the three end-to-end alternatives to be evaluated in this EIR/EIS.

In December 2018, the Authority developed the *Checkpoint B Summary Report Addendum 4* (Authority 2019a) to address a new alternative that would implement the Authority's Board of Directors vision in the 2018 Business Plan (Authority 2018) by operating HSR on a blended, at-grade alignment predominantly within existing railroad rights-of-way between San Jose and Gilroy. The analysis in Chapters 4 through 8 of the *Checkpoint B Summary Report Addendum 4* (Authority 2019a) discusses impacts where Alternative 4 differs from Alternatives 1, 2, and 3 in the San Jose Diridon Station Approach, Monterey Corridor, and Morgan Hill and Gilroy Subsections. Chapter 10 of that document summarizes the rationale for including Alternative 4 in this EIR/EIS. Section 2.5, Alternatives Considered during Alternatives Screening Process, of this EIR/EIS includes considerations and decisions on design options and alternatives, derived from the addendum. With the addition of Alternative 4, and the resulting interest from relevant communities, the Authority conducted additional outreach in 2019, including increased outreach to communities with high percentages of environmental justice populations (see Appendix 5-B for additional information). Outreach efforts to introduce Alternative 4 included developing a set of maps highlighting key design features, hosting a round of TWG and CWG meetings, and attending community meetings throughout the corridor (San Jose, Morgan Hill, San Martin, and Gilroy). Presentations at these events highlighted the key features of Alternative 4 and shared maps of important features and locations within each community. Each presentation was tailored to explain the effects of Alternative 4 on the local community. CWGs participated in a mapping exercise to identify community resources that might be affected by Alternative 4 and share how the effects of Alternative 4 on their community differed from the other three alternatives. In addition, the Authority shared information on Alternative 4 through existing Caltrain-led outreach efforts, such as the City/County Staff Coordinating Group and the Local Policy Makers Group. These Caltrain-led efforts previously focused on the San Francisco to San Jose Project Section, and were expanded to include Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and Santa Clara County.

9.4.1 Outreach, Involvement, and Communications Guidance

The Authority conducted public outreach and agency involvement throughout the development of this EIR/EIS specific to a number of resource areas. Additional information on coordination efforts is described in Sections 3.2, Transportation; 3.7, Biological and Aquatic Resources; 3.8, Hydrology and Water Resources; 3.11, Safety and Security; 3.12, Socioeconomics and Communities; 3.15, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space; 3.17, Cultural Resources; and Chapter 5, Environmental Justice.

Throughout the development of the Draft EIR/EIS, from March 2016 through the notification of the availability of this Final EIR/EIS, the Authority held more than 500 meetings with elected officials and staff, low-income populations and minority populations and communities of concern, key stakeholders, and the public. Among these meetings were a number of TWG and CWG meetings to discuss the range of alternatives and gather input from community members. Based on comments received during the alternatives analysis process, the Authority focused on holding additional meetings with communities along the project alignment and environmental justice communities. Table 9-4, which appears at the end of this chapter, summarizes the number of meetings held with numerous stakeholders from March 2016 through publication of this Final EIR/EIS.

Common comments received during the alternatives refinement phase included the following:

- Impacts on agriculture, which are considered in Section 3.14, Agricultural Farmlands
- Impacts on local roads, connectivity, and access, considered in Section 3.2, Transportation
- Right-of-way, property acquisition and eminent domain, and impacts on property values, considered in Section 3.13, Station Planning, Land Use, and Development, and the *San Jose to Merced Project Section Community Impact Assessment* (Authority 2019b)
- Community quality-of-life concerns, considered in Section 3.12, Socioeconomics and Communities
- Noise/vibration, considered in Section 3.4, Noise and Vibration
- Future station area development plans, considered in Section 3.13, Station Planning, Land Use, and Development
- Visual impacts, considered in Section 3.16, Aesthetics and Visual Quality
- Public safety, considered in Section 3.11, Safety and Security
- Impacts on wildlife/biological resources, considered in Section 3.7, Biological and Aquatic Resources

9.4.2 Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding

In addition to agency meetings and consultation (discussed in Section 9.4.7, Agency Meetings and Consultation), throughout the planning process the Authority and FRA have entered into agreements with environmental resource agencies to facilitate the environmental permitting required during final design and construction. These agreements are intended to identify the Authority’s responsibilities in meeting the permitting requirements of the federal, state, and regional environmental resource agencies.

In December 2010, the Authority and FRA prepared a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with USEPA and USACE to integrate NEPA (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] 4321 et seq.), Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1241 et seq.), and Rivers and Harbors Act Section 14 (33 U.S.C. 408) processes for the HSR system. The Authority and FRA also executed the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 (54 U.S.C. 306101 et seq.) PA in June 2011 with the California State Historic Preservation Officer. The Section 106 PA provides an overall framework for conducting the Section 106 process for the Project Section and includes interested party and tribal consultations. Section 9.4.8 summarizes agency coordination activities associated with the Section 106 PA and MOU.

The 2011 *Memorandum of Understanding for Achieving an Environmentally Sustainable High-Speed Train System for California* establishes a framework under which the signatory agencies committed to working together to achieve an environmentally sustainable HSR system (Authority 2011). Signatories to the MOU include the Authority, FRA, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Federal Transit Administration, and USEPA. The MOU defines common goals, identifies key areas for collaboration, and defines expectations and terms for signatory agencies.

Consistent with the MOU, the Authority recognizes the need to build the project using sustainable methods that accomplish the following:

- Promote sustainable housing and development patterns.
- Integrate station access and amenities into the fabric of surrounding neighborhoods.
- Stimulate multimodal connectivity and increase options for affordable, convenient access to goods, services and employment.
- Reduce passenger transportation emissions across California, thereby reducing associated environmental and health impacts.

- Promote energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- Encourage best practices for water efficiency and conservation.
- Protect ecologically sensitive and agricultural lands.

Additional investments in the Peninsula Corridor were established through Metropolitan Transportation Commission Resolution No. 4056 and the associated MOU to prepare the corridor for implementation of blended Caltrain and HSR operations in the future. Caltrain, the Authority, and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission Resolution No. 4056 MOU partners have agreed on shared use of the Caltrain corridor for up to six Caltrain trains per peak hour in each direction and up to four HSR trains per peak hour in each direction. Additional agreements related to funding commitments were made between the Authority and Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board in 2016 and 2018. These agreements are further described in Section 1.3.4, Authority Agreements with Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board and Other Agencies Regarding Blended Service in the Caltrain Corridor.

9.4.3 Public Information Materials and Meetings

The Authority and FRA held informal and formal public meetings during preparation of the Draft EIR/EIS. Various meeting formats, such as open houses, formal presentations, question and comment sessions, and informational tabling at community events, were used to present information and provide opportunities for input by participants. The Authority's website provided project information and announcements. Table 9-4 provides a summary of the public meetings held during this process.

Public information meetings took place during preparation of the Draft EIR/EIS to inform the public about the alternatives analysis recommendations for the project section and the progress of the EIR/EIS. In addition, these meetings provided information on various HSR project components and served as forums for obtaining feedback. The public information meetings included brief presentations and project information materials (on display and in fact sheets), and Authority representatives were available to answer questions. Meetings were announced through direct mail to those in the project database, advertisements in local newspapers, and postings on the Authority's website. Various publications and materials were also made available on the website.

Among the public meetings held during development of the Draft EIR/EIS were a series of community open house meetings in May 2016, and April and May 2017. Three open house meetings were held in May 2016 in San Jose (May 17, 2016), Gilroy (May 19, 2016), and Los Banos (May 16, 2016). Four open house meetings were held in 2017 in San Jose (April 20, 2017), Morgan Hill (May 1, 2017), Gilroy (April 18, 2017), and Los Banos (April 25, 2017). Open house meetings allowed the general public to learn about the range of alternatives, get an update on the environmental review process, and ask questions and provide input. Open house materials included meeting presentations, display exhibits, and maps.

The Authority participated in additional public meetings hosted by other agencies, such as the Gilroy Community Neighborhood Revitalization Committee on July 19, 2017, and the SPUR Station Symposium on October 12, 2018, to provide project updates, answer questions and hear feedback. Table 9-4 provides the dates of these meetings.

9.4.4 Community Working Group Meetings

The Authority held a series of CWG meetings during development of the Draft EIR/EIS and Final EIR/EIS. A CWG is a voluntary group of community members composed of representatives from various constituencies along the San Jose to Merced corridor and local interest groups involved in transportation, environmental sustainability, and social issues in the region. Three CWGs were established: San Jose CWG, Morgan Hill to Gilroy CWG, and Los Banos CWG. All three CWGs met in 2016, with the San Jose and Morgan Hill-Gilroy CWGs continuing through 2021. After the first round of CWG meetings, it was determined due to the makeup of the members of the Los Banos CWG that this group be merged with the Gilroy to Los Banos TWG. Table 9-4 shows the

CWG meetings. The purpose of the CWGs was to enable informal information exchange between community members and Authority representatives, including engineering, environmental, and planning staff. CWG meetings were conducted in a small group meeting format (approximately 15–20 members) to enable working group members to voice concerns and identify local projects for Authority consideration. CWG members collected and validated the data on community values, considerations, projects, and programs to confirm their feedback was accurately captured. Potential stakeholder projects were evaluated to determine whether there was a connection with the HSR project, for Authority consideration to incorporate into preliminary engineering or as project mitigation measures.

9.4.5 Tribal Coordination Meetings

Pursuant to the 2011 Section 106 PA, the Authority and FRA initiated consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in July 2015 for a search of their Sacred Lands File and lists of Native American contacts. The NAHC is responsible for maintaining a list of all federally recognized tribes and nonfederally recognized tribes that are recognized by the State of California. The Authority relied on the list of tribal governments provided by the NAHC to determine which tribes to contact for the project extent. The Authority contacted a total of 43 tribes and individuals as part of this effort.

Of the interested parties contacted, two Native American groups, one historical society, and two local government departments requested to be Section 106 consulting parties for the cultural resources investigation and the preparation of the MOA. As of June 2018, the consulting parties are Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan, Morgan Hill Historical Society, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, and City of Gilroy Planning Department.

Throughout the development of the EIR/EIS, the Authority and FRA coordinated with the tribes, including conducting several meetings with statewide and local tribes, holding three Tribal Consultation Policy Listening Forums to gather input for the agency's tribal consultation policy, and touring the alignment on September 15, 2016, for the purpose of identifying areas of cultural resource sensitivity. Tribes may also contribute to, review, and comment on the development of the cultural resources technical reports. Section 3.17, Cultural Resources, and Volume 2, Appendix 3.17-B, Cultural Resources – San Jose to Merced Project Section Tribal Outreach and Consultation Efforts 2009–2021 provide more information on Native American outreach and consultation efforts.

9.4.6 Technical Working Group Meetings

TWGs continued to meet from 2016 through 2021 during the EIR/EIS preparation process to facilitate information exchanges about modifications to alignments selected for analysis in the EIR/EIS, HSR station and alignment design details, and identification of potential resource impacts and avoidance alternatives. Two TWGs, a San Jose to Morgan Hill TWG and a Gilroy to Los Banos TWG, provided input into the CWG process. The TWG meetings helped participants transfer information needs, express concerns and preferences, and relay important project updates. Table 9-4 shows the TWG meeting dates during this time.

9.4.7 Agency Meetings and Consultation

The Authority consulted with cooperating federal agencies and other interested federal, state, and local agencies under NEPA and with trustee and responsible agencies under CEQA regarding specific resource areas associated with these agencies. Interested state, federal, and local agencies were also consulted throughout the development of the Draft EIR/EIS, the Revised/Supplemental Draft EIR/EIS, and this Final EIR/EIS.

Three cooperating agencies participated in the NEPA review process: USACE; the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation; and the Surface Transportation Board. Multiple other federal agencies that have been involved and contributed to the environmental review include:

- USEPA
- USFWS
- NMFS
- National Park Service
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Additionally, consultation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service was conducted to evaluate conversion of farmland to other uses. Section 3.14, Agricultural Farmland, includes more information on this consultation process and findings.

A number of California agencies (state and regional) serve as CEQA responsible agencies for the Final EIR/EIS. These include:

- CDFW
- California Department of Transportation
- California Department of Water Resources
- California Office of Historic Preservation
- California Public Utilities Commission
- California State Lands Commission
- Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain)
- Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority
- Regional Water Quality Control Boards
- State Water Resources Control Board
- Santa Clara Valley Water District
- Central Valley Flood Protection Board
- Bay Area Air Quality Management District
- Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- Monterey Bay Air Resources District
- San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District.

The Authority coordinated with environmental agencies throughout development of the alternatives analysis and EIR/EIS. Two environmental resource agency working groups met in 2016 to focus on species-specific technical topics. A Fish and Aquatic Resources Working Group held several coordination meetings with NMFS. The work of the Fish and Aquatic Resources Working Group focused on modeling effects on steelhead, spring-run Chinook salmon, and fall-run Chinook salmon, and on development of a biological assessment. A Species Working Group was also convened with participants from CDFW Region 3, CDFW Region 4, CDFW Habitat

Cooperating Agency

Any agency invited by the lead federal agency that has agreed to participate in the NEPA process, and has legal jurisdiction over, or technical expertise regarding, environmental impacts associated with a proposed action.

Responsible Agency

A public agency other than the lead agency that has discretionary approval power over the project.

Conservation Plan Branch, and USFWS. The Species Working Group looked at species modeling and wildlife corridor analysis. Table 9-4 lists these resource agency meetings.

The Authority also conducted outreach to public transit agencies with facilities located within 0.5 mile of the project footprint, including Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, Bay Area Rapid Transit District, Caltrain, Transportation Agency for Monterey County, Altamont Corridor Express, and Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority.

The Authority participated in additional meetings with representatives of federal, state, regional, and local agencies throughout the environmental review process. These meetings are shown in Table 9-4 and Appendix 9-A, Public and Agency Meeting List.

9.4.8 Section 106 Consultation, National Historic Preservation Act

In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, the Authority invited consulting parties (including other federal, state, regional, or local agencies that may have responsibilities for historic properties) to review project historic resource reports and findings.

The June 2011 Section 106 PA describes the process for consulting with Native Americans and other interested parties. Specifically, Stipulation V.A. of the Section 106 PA states that, “the public and consulting parties will have an opportunity to comment and have concerns taken into account on findings identified in Section 106 survey and effects documented via attendance at public meetings where they can submit comments on the information presented, as well as access [to] the Section 106 documents via email requests to the Authority’s website.” Furthermore, Stipulation V.C specifies that tribal consulting parties be consulted at key milestones in the Section 106 and NEPA processes to gain input from the tribal governments.

The Authority contacted potentially interested parties including local government planning departments, historic preservation organizations, historical societies, libraries, and museums. In accordance with Section 106 PA Stipulation V.A., these interested agencies, groups and individuals were invited to comment on the significance findings and treatments proposed, and those with demonstrated interest in the project were invited to participate as consulting parties in the preparation of the MOA. A table describing this contact is provided in Volume 2, Appendix 3.17-A, Correspondence. This table also summarizes outreach to 113 state, regional, and local agencies that may have responsibilities for historic properties and may want to review reports and findings for a project within their jurisdiction.

9.4.9 Section 404 Consultation, Clean Water Act

The MOU signed by the Authority, FRA, USEPA, and USACE in December 2010 requires completion of three milestones prior to submittal of Section 404 permit applications to ensure compliance with the Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines, to provide the basis for a future Section 401 water quality certification, and to integrate NEPA analysis and the 404(b)(1) analysis:

- Checkpoint A: Purpose and Need
- Checkpoint B: Range of Alternatives for Consideration
- Checkpoint C: Determination of the Preliminary Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative

In April 2016, the Authority and FRA confirmed the purpose and need for the San Jose to Merced Project Section (Checkpoint A). In May 2013, the Authority and FRA issued the *Checkpoint B Summary Report in Support of the San Jose to Merced Section, Section 404(b)(1) Analysis* (Authority and FRA 2013). USEPA and USACE concurred on the Checkpoint B report in August and September 2014, respectively. The *Checkpoint B Summary Report Addendum 3* (Authority and FRA 2017) was received in August 2017; USEPA and USACE agreed with the range of alternatives for consideration in the San Jose to Merced Project Section Draft EIR/EIS in September 2017. An additional Checkpoint B Summary Report Addendum was prepared in December 2018 to include Alternative 4 (Authority 2019a), and USACE and USEPA agreed with the range of alternatives for consideration in the EIR/EIS in January and February 2019,

respectively. The Authority prepared and submitted a Checkpoint C Summary Report to USEPA and USACE for review in February 2020. On March 18, 2020, and on March 20, 2020, the USEPA and USACE, respectively, provided letters of concurrence to the Authority on the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative for the San Jose to Merced Project Section as part of the Checkpoint C process. The USACE also concurred that the draft Compensatory Mitigation Plan may provide sufficient mitigation to meet the needs of the project under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

9.4.10 Section 7 Consultation, Federal Endangered Species Act

When a federal agency takes action subject to the federal Endangered Species Act, it must comply with Section 7(a)(2) of that act, which describes two duties for a federal action agency: (1) an independent, substantive duty to ensure its proposed actions would not jeopardize the continued existence of an endangered species, and (2) an independent, substantive duty to ensure its proposed actions would not result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. To meet these duties, the federal agency taking action must use the best available scientific and commercial data to assess the effects of the proposed action, and it must consult with USFWS and NMFS for assistance. Through these formal consultations, federal agencies determine whether a proposed action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species and/or result in the destruction or adverse modification of its critical habitat.

The Authority has initiated coordination with the USFWS and NMFS. The Authority submitted the biological assessment with a request to initiate Section 7 consultation to USFWS and NMFS in June 2020. The biological assessment evaluates the potential adverse effects of the project on species listed as endangered or threatened, proposed for listing as endangered or threatened, or those species that are candidates for listing as endangered or threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act, as well as effects on designated or proposed critical habitat. After addressing agency comments on the biological assessment, the Authority submitted a revised biological assessment to NMFS in October 2020. On June 24, 2021, NMFS issued the Biological Opinion and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Response, concluding formal consultation. Formal consultation with the USFWS is ongoing, with completion of the biological opinion process anticipated prior to the Record of Decision.

9.5 Notification and Circulation of the Draft and Revised/Supplemental Draft EIR/EISs and Release of the Final EIR/EIS

In April 2020, public notice regarding the availability and the circulation of the Draft EIR/EIS was provided pursuant to CEQA and NEPA requirements, and text of the public notice was prepared in English, Spanish, Mandarin, and Vietnamese. Notice included publication of an announcement in newspapers with general circulation in areas potentially affected by the proposed project. The advertisement indicated that the San Jose to Merced Project Section Draft EIR/EIS was available on the Authority's website for review. It also noted the dates, times, and locations of community open houses and the public hearing, locations where the document could be viewed, and the period during which public comments would be received. The announcement was advertised in the following newspapers:

- *Bay Area News Group*
- *Gilroy Dispatch*
- *Merced Sun-Star/Los Banos Enterprise*
- *Morgan Hill Times*
- *El Observador* (Spanish language newspaper)
- *Sing Tao* (Mandarin language newspaper)
- *Vietnam Daily News* (Vietnamese language newspaper)

A letter and Notice of Availability (NOA) were provided in English, with brief summary statements and contact information translated into Spanish, Mandarin, and Vietnamese. These were distributed by direct mail to elected officials; local, regional, state and federal agencies; school

districts with facilities within 0.25 mile of the project footprint; schools located within 0.5 mile of the project footprint; and members of the public who subscribed to the project mailing list, had attended project events (e.g., scoping, public meetings), or had sent comments or questions via email or the Authority’s website. In addition, notice was sent to property owners adjacent to the four project alignment alternatives. In addition, this information was distributed through the Authority’s social media accounts. Emails were also sent to stakeholders who had previously registered to receive information via email about the Draft EIR/EIS.

On April 24, 2020, the USEPA published the NOA for the Draft EIR/EIS in the *Federal Register*, indicating a 45-day public review period ending on June 8, 2020. On May 15, 2020, the Authority notified USEPA that the review and comment period was being extended to end on June 23, 2020, and the USEPA published the revised notice in the *Federal Register* on May 22, 2020. The NOA included dates, times, and locations for three community open houses and a public hearing, planned to occur in May 2020. However, due to public health and safety requirements related to COVID-19, limited access in compliance with Governor Newsom’s executive shelter-in-place order (N-33-20) and applicable County Health Officer directives, the community open houses and public hearing were held as online teleconference meetings. Public meeting and hearing dates and locations were also posted on the Authority’s website.

The USEPA published the NOA for the Revised/Supplemental Draft EIR/EIS in the *Federal Register* on April 23, 2021, for a 45-day public review period ending on June 9, 2021. No community open houses or public hearings were held for the Revised/Supplemental Draft EIR/EIS. Advertisements were placed in the same newspapers and materials were distributed in the same manner as was done for the Draft EIR/EIS.

Additional notices for both the Draft EIR/EIS and Revised/Supplemental Draft EIR/EIS publications included the following:

- Notices of Completion (NOC) indicating the availability of both documents were filed with the State Clearinghouse, and printed and electronic copies were sent to state agencies.
- The NOAs were filed electronically with the county clerk offices in Santa Clara, San Benito, and Merced Counties.

The entire Draft EIR/EIS and Revised/Supplemental Draft EIR/EIS were available on the Authority’s website (www.hsr.ca.gov), and electronic copies of these documents and associated technical reports were available upon request by phone or email from the Authority.

The Authority identified 11 repository locations, including public libraries, county clerk offices, and Authority offices, where printed and electronic versions of the Draft EIR/EIS and Revised/Supplemental Draft EIR/EIS would be made available to the public during the review and comment periods. However, because of public health and safety requirements related to the COVID-19 pandemic, hardcopy materials were not distributed to the libraries or county clerk offices, given they were closed or operating with limited access in compliance with state and local COVID-19 directives. As a result, printed and electronic versions of the Draft EIR/EIS were only available at the Authority’s Headquarters at 700 L Street, Suite 620, Sacramento, CA 95814 and Northern California Regional Office at 100 Paseo de San Antonio, Suite 300, San Jose, CA 95113. Due to continued closures and limited operating hours, printed and electronic copies of the Revised/Supplemental Draft EIR/EIS were only available to the public at the Authority’s Sacramento and San Jose offices as well as the Gilroy Library, Merced County Library, Los Banos Branch Library, and Morgan Hill Library. The rest of the repository locations remained closed or did not have the capacity to receive and maintain the distribution materials for public review.

During the public review period on the Draft EIR/EIS, the Authority received a total of 746 comment submissions through a combination of letters, emails, comment cards, and oral comments provided at the public hearing. The 746 submissions yielded a total of 4,887 discrete comments. During the public review period for the Revised/Supplemental Draft EIR/EIS, the Authority received a total of 16 comment submissions through a combination of letters and emails. These 16 submissions yielded a total of 226 discrete comments.

On February 11, 2022, the USEPA published the NOA for the Final EIR/EIS in the *Federal Register*. The NOA also provided notice to the public that the Authority's Board of Directors would hold a board meeting to consider approval of the Preferred Alternative under CEQA and NEPA. The Final EIR/EIS is available on the Authority's website (www.hsr.ca.gov/). Printed and electronic versions of the Final EIR/EIS are available at the same public libraries and county clerk offices (during the hours the facilities are open in compliance with coronavirus public health and safety directives), and at the Authority's Headquarters and Northern California Regional Offices. Advertisements were placed in the same newspapers and materials were distributed in the same manner as was done for the previous publications of the Draft EIR/EIS. In addition, the NOC was filed with the State Clearinghouse, and the NOA filed electronically with the county clerk offices in Santa Clara, San Benito, and Merced Counties.

Table 9-4 Public and Agency Meetings Summary, March 2016–September 2021

Organization/Individual	Number of Meetings Held	Meeting Dates
African American Community Services Agency	5	1/23/2020, 2/1/2020, 2/21/2020, 7/27/2020, 9/13/2021
American Society of Civil Engineers Golden Gate Branch	1	10/14/2020
American Society of Civil Engineers San Jose Branch	1	4/8/2020
Artega's Food Center	1	4/17/2017
Asian Pacific Islander (API) Council	1	10/7/2019
ASV Wineries	1	1/16/2019
Audubon	15	6/14/2017, 6/21/2017, 5/18/2018, 5/29/2018, 6/27/2018, 8/15/2018, 7/15/2019, 9/19/2018, 10/17/2018, 12/3/2018, 2/13/2019, 9/30/2019, 4/8/2020, 4/8/2021, 9/23/2021
Authority Board Meeting	1	9/17/2019
BART	5	2/13/2017, 2/23/2017, 4/7/2017, 5/25/2017, 6/22/2017
Bay Area Council Transportation Committee	2	7/24/2019, 7/28/2020
Bay Area Summer Academy	1	7/22/2021
Better Tomorrow	1	11/6/2019
California State Assembly candidate Alex Lee	1	8/28/2020
California State Assembly member Evan Low	3	10/5/2016, 9/24/2018, 11/19/2019
California State Assembly member Kansen Chu	1	3/6/2020
California State Senator Bill Monning	2	11/29/2016, 12/9/2019
California State Senator Dave Cortese	1	1/22/2021
California State Senator Jim Beall	2	10/6/2016, 8/1/2017

Organization/Individual	Number of Meetings Held	Meeting Dates
California Strategic Growth Council	9	2/13/2018, 2/14/2018, 2/28/2018, 3/14/2018, 4/27/2018, 6/13/2018, 7/18/2018, 8/22/2018, 1/10/2018
California Waterfowl Associates	4	6/14/2017, 6/21/2017, 9/30/2019, 4/8/2020, 4/8/2021, 9/23/2021
Caltrain Blended Infrastructure Working Group	3	6/10/2016, 6/24/2016, 7/22/2016
Caltrain	25	7/28/2016, 10/28/2016, 2/23/2017, 9/8/2017, 9/25/2017, 6/5/2018, 7/5/2018, 7/24/2018, 8/1/2018, 8/23/2018, 9/5/2018, 9/27/2018, 10/25/2018, 11/29/2018, 12/20/2018, 1/4/2019, 1/29/2019, 2/28/2019, 4/25/2019, 5/23/2019, 6/27/2019, 7/25/2019, 8/15/2019, 10/24/2019, 9/17/2021
Caltrain Citizens Advisory Committee	1	8/18/2021
Caltrans	22	2/9/2017, 2/23/2017, 3/9/2017, 3/23/2017, 4/13/2017, 4/27/2017, 5/11/2017, 5/25/2017, 7/27/2017, 8/10/2017, 9/7/2017, 9/14/2017, 10/19/2017, 10/26/2017, 11/9/2017, 12/14/2017, 1/17/2018, 5/2/2018, 7/17/2018, 7/20/2018, 4/23/2021, 7/7/2021
Caltrans NAAC	2	3/9/2016, 11/16/2016
CalWORKS Advisory Council	1	9/2/2020
Capitol Corridor	1	7/28/2016
CCID	3	5/31/2017, 8/9/2017, 1/24/2018
CDFW	17	10/13/2016, 10/24/2016, 11/8/2016, 12/8/2016, 12/16/2016, 1/19/2017-1/20/2017, 2/23/2017, 2/24/2017, 3/24/2017, 5/5/2017, 7/15/2017, 8/16/2017, 1/14/2019, 9/30/2019, 4/8/2020, 4/8/2021, 9/23/2021
Celeste Walker	1	1/30/2020
Center for Biological Diversity	1	8/18/2021
Center for Employment Training	3	2/20/2020, 7/30/2020, 9/28/2021
Central Valley Community Foundation	1	10/18/2019
CHP	2	5/11/2017, 1/17/2018

Organization/Individual	Number of Meetings Held	Meeting Dates
City of Gilroy	25	6/23/2016, 7/27/2016, 8/5/2016, 10/20/2016, 11/14/2016, 2/21/2017, 3/8/2017, 4/12/2017, 5/24/2017, 7/10/2017, 8/2/2017, 8/30/2017, 2/23/2018, 4/25/2018, 6/8/2018, 7/20/2018, 8/24/2018, 1/4/2019, 1/11/2019, 1/7/2020, 1/28/2020, 7/28/2020, 2/24/2021, 7/8/2021, 9/10/2021
City of Gilroy Draft EIR/EIS Workshop	2	4/29/2020, 6/4/2020
City of Los Banos	1	1/14/2019
City of Morgan Hill	23	6/7/2016, 6/23/2016, 7/14/2016, 8/2/2016, 8/24/2016, 8/2/2017, 1/31/2018, 2/23/2018, 6/15/2018, 6/26/2018, 7/12/2018, 8/15/2018, 9/21/2018, 1/4/2019, 1/17/2019, 2/12/2019, 3/6/2019, 7/17/2019, 1/7/2020, 7/22/2020, 6/30/2021, 8/2/2021, 9/7/2021
City of Morgan Hill Draft EIR/EIS Workshop	2	4/29/2020, 5/13/2020
City of San Jose	57	5/10/2016, 6/6/2016, 6/8/2016, 6/22/2016, 7/13/2016, 7/27/2016, 8/10/2016, 8/23/2016, 8/24/2016, 9/9/2016, 9/13/2016, 9/14/2016, 9/21/2016, 9/28/2016, 11/9/2016, 11/22/2016, 12/9/2016, 1/25/2017, 1/31/2017, 2/8/2017, 3/24/2017, 5/3/2017, 5/10/2017, 5/17/2017, 5/24/2017, 5/31/2017, 6/7/2017, 6/14/2017, 6/21/2017, 6/22/2017, 7/7/2017, 7/12/2017, 7/19/2017, 7/26/2017, 8/2/2017, 8/9/2017, 8/16/2017, 8/23/2017, 8/30/2017, 9/6/2017, 9/20/2017, 9/25/2017, 9/27/2017, 10/4/2017, 10/11/2017, 10/18/2017, 2/23/2018, 8/2/2018, 8/9/2018, 1/18/2019, 8/15/2019, 1/8/2020, 2/3/2020, 7/13/2021, 7/30/2020, 7/8/2021, 9/9/2021
City of San Jose Brown Act Group	1	3/11/2020
City of San Jose Draft EIR/EIS Workshop	2	5/1/2020, 5/26/2020
City of San Jose Staff Working Group	15	10/25/2016, 12/7/2016, 12/21/2016, 2/22/2017, 3/22/2017, 4/12/2017, 4/26/2017, 5/10/2017, 6/14/2017, 6/28/2017, 8/9/2017, 9/6/2017, 9/20/2017, 10/4/2017, 11/1/2017
City of San Jose Transportation and Environment Committee	1	3/1/2021

Organization/Individual	Number of Meetings Held	Meeting Dates
City of San Mateo	1	9/17/2021
City of Santa Clara	2	3/11/2020, 7/28/2020, 9/14/2021
City/County Staff Coordinating Group	28	6/15/2016, 10/19/2016, 4/18/2018, 6/20/2018, 7/18/2018, 8/15/2018, 9/19/2018, 2/20/2019, 3/20/2019, 6/19/2019, 7/17/2019, 8/21/2019, 10/16/2019, 1/15/2020, 2/19/2020, 5/20/2020, 6/17/2020, 7/15/2020, 7/30/2020, 8/19/2020, 11/18/2020, 1/20/2021, 2/17/2021, 3/17/2021, 4/21/2021, 6/16/2021, 7/21/2021, 8/18/2021
Community Meeting, San Martin	2	12/15/2016, 2/2/2017
Community Working Group, Los Banos Area	1	4/18/2016
Community Working Group, Morgan Hill–Gilroy	11	4/14/2016, 8/11/2016, 1/26/2017, 11/7/2018, 3/5/2019, 4/22/2019, 7/10/2019, 3/9/2020, 5/21/2020, 11/18/2020, 3/3/2021
Community Working Group, San Jose	19	4/12/2016, 8/17/2016, 1/23/2017, 5/31/2017, 7/12/2017, 8/2/2017, 8/30/2017, 9/27/2017, 10/26/2017, 5/2/2018, 8/16/2018, 11/28/2018, 2/21/2019, 5/2/2019, 7/16/2019, 3/11/2020, 5/21/2020, 11/18/2020, 3/3/2021
Concord Rotary	1	2/21/2020
Congressman Jim Costa	1	4/24/2020
Congressman Josh Harder	1	10/20/2020
Congressman Ro Khanna's staff	1	11/12/2019
Congresswoman Anna Eshoo's staff	1	3/7/2019
Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren	3	6/20/2016, 8/2/2016, 3/6/2020
Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren's staff	3	1/23/2017, 12/11/2019, 7/7/2021
Construction Management Association of America NorCal Chapter	1	9/17/2020
Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR)	1	2/7/2020
Danny Garza	1	1/30/2020
Defenders of Wildlife	2	6/14/2017, 6/21/2017
Delmas Park Neighborhood Association	1	10/23/2018
Diridon Communications Working Group	2	8/31/2016, 8/8/2018
Diridon Integrated Station Concept Plan (DISC) Outreach Committee	2	4/30/2020, 6/23/2020

Organization/Individual	Number of Meetings Held	Meeting Dates
Diridon Intermodal Working Group	2	9/8/2016, 6/1/2017
Diridon Station Joint Policy Advisory Board	2	6/17/2016, 12/14/2018
Diridon Station Joint Policy Advisory Board	3	12/16/2016, 2/29/2020, 3/6/2020
Diridon Station Leadership Team	1	4/14/2021
Diridon Station Outreach Event	1	6/13/2019
Diridon Technical Advisory Group	2	2/3/2017, 9/2/2020
Diridon/Joint Powers Authority	2	8/5/2016, 10/7/2016
Ducks Unlimited	15	6/14/2017, 6/21/2017, 5/18/2018, 5/29/2018, 6/27/2018, 8/15/2018, 9/19/2018, 10/17/2018, 12/3/2018, 2/13/2019, 7/15/2019, 9/30/2019, 4/8/2020, 4/8/2021, 9/23/2021
DWR	6	10/24/2016, 5/18/2018, 5/29/2018, 6/27/2018, 8/15/2018, 7/15/2019
East Side Union High School District	1	1/30/2020
Edenvale Great Oaks Plan Implementation Coalition	2	12/7/2016, 4/21/2020
Edenvale Public Library (information table)	1	11/29/2016
Eliot School Neighborhood Members, Gilroy	2	10/20/2016, 11/14/2016
Emergency Assistance Network	1	2/24/2020
Environmental Defense Fund	6	6/14/2017, 6/21/2017, 9/19/2018, 10/17/2018, 12/3/2018, 2/13/2019
FRA	53	10/24/2016, 1/31/2017, 3/14/2017, 4/25/2017, 5/9/2017, 5/23/2017, 5/24/2017, 6/13/2017, 6/20/2017, 6/27/2017, 6/28/2017, 7/25/2017, 8/8/2017, 8/22/2017, 8/23/2017, 9/12/2017, 9/26/2017, 9/27/2017, 10/10/2017, 10/24/2017, 10/25/2017, 11/7/2017, 12/5/2017, 12/19/2017, 1/9/2018, 2/13/2018, 2/28/2018, 3/13/2018, 4/10/2018, 4/24/2018, 5/8/2018, 6/12/2018, 6/26/2018, 6/27/2018, 7/24/2018, 8/14/2018, 8/28/2018, 10/23/2018, 11/28/2018, 12/18/2018, 5/7/2019, 7/24/2019, 9/10/2019, 9/25/2019, 12/10/2019, 11/27/2019, 2/26/2020, 3/25/2020, 4/22/2020, 5/27/2020, 6/24/2020, 7/22/2020, 9/23/2020
Franklin-McKinley School District, San Jose	2	4/16/2020, 9/17/2021

Organization/Individual	Number of Meetings Held	Meeting Dates
Garden Alameda Village Association	1	9/3/2020
Gardner Academy PTO	1	12/13/2019
Gardner community members	1	9/14/2021
Gardner Neighborhood Association	3	2/13/2017, 9/18/2017, 5/13/2019
Gardner Neighborhood leaders, San Jose	1	7/27/2018
Gavilan College	4	1/16/2020, 4/17/2020, 7/27/2020, 9/16/2021
General Services Administration	1	7/18/2016
Geotechnical and Tunneling Advisory Group	1	4/25/2017
Gilroy Car Show	1	8/17/2019
Gilroy Chamber of Commerce	4	3/10/2017, 6/8/2018, 6/26/2018, 4/22/2021
Gilroy City Council	4	9/12/2016, 1/17/2017, 12/6/2017, 9/24/2018
Gilroy City Councilmember Armendariz	1	2/18/2021
Gilroy City Councilmember Hilton	1	2/18/2021
Gilroy Community Meeting, South Valley Middle School	1	5/28/2019
Gilroy community members	1	9/28/2021
Gilroy Community & Neighborhood Revitalization Committee	1	7/19/2017
Gilroy Downtown Business Association	1	9/13/2016
Gilroy High School	1	1/15/2020
Gilroy Mayor Marie Blankley	1	2/24/2021
Gilroy Mayor Roland Velasco	2	6/8/2018, 1/7/2020
Gilroy Public Library (information table)	2	12/19/2016, 4/6/2017
Gilroy Sons in Retirement	1	1/26/2017
Gilroy Station Area Planning Citizens Advisory Committee	1	11/9/2016
Gilroy Unified School District	7	1/20/2017, 6/26/2018, 9/24/2018, 12/19/2019, 1/28/2020, 7/29/2020, 9/8/2021
Global Climate Action Summit	2	9/12/2018, 9/13/2018
Go Kids (formerly Estrella Family Services)	1	1/23/2020
Goodyear-Mastic Neighborhood Association	1	3/8/2017
Granite Rock	2	4/1/2021, 7/26/2021

Organization/Individual	Number of Meetings Held	Meeting Dates
Grassland Water District	23	7/13/2016, 5/11/2017, 6/14/2017, 6/21/2017, 8/30/2017, 12/13/2017, 2/21/2018, 3/23/2018, 5/18/2018, 5/29/2018, 6/27/2018, 8/15/2018, 9/19/2018, 10/17/2018, 12/3/2018, 1/14/2019, 2/13/2019, 7/15/2019, 9/30/2019, 4/8/2020, 4/8/2021, 7/8/2021, 9/23/2021
Guadalupe Washington community members	1	9/13/2021
Guadalupe Washington Neighborhood Association	1	2/20/2020
Guadalupe Washington Safety Coalition	1	2/20/2020
Henry Miller Reclamation District	4	3/14/2017, 5/31/2017, 8/9/2017, 1/14/2019
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Silicon Valley	2	9/22/2020, 11/11/2020
HNTB Mega Project Planning Brown Bag	1	5/15/2020
HomeFirst	1	2/27/2020
HomeFirst Homeless Walk, Monterey Corridor	1	5/31/2019
Homeless Community Dinner, St. Joseph's Family Center, Gilroy	1	6/13/2019
Homeless Service Providers	2	2/6/2020, 7/31/2020
ICAN Family Resource Center	1	2/7/2020
Independence High School Engineering Academy	1	3/25/2021
Integral Group	1	9/28/2017
International Conference on Ecology and Transportation	1	9/23/2019
International Right-of-Way Association	1	2/1/2017
International Transportation and Health Conference	1	6/14/2016
Joint Powers Authority Board	1	2/26/2021
La Raza Radio	1	12/13/2019

Organization/Individual	Number of Meetings Held	Meeting Dates
Local Policy Makers Group	29	2/22/2018, 4/26/2018, 6/28/2018, 7/26/2018, 8/23/2018, 11/29/2018, 12/20/2018, 1/25/2019, 2/28/2019, 3/28/2019, 4/25/2019, 6/27/2019, 7/25/2019, 8/22/2019, 10/24/2019, 1/23/2020, 2/27/2020, 5/28/2020, 6/25/2020, 7/23/2020, 8/27/2020, 11/19/2020, 1/28/2021, 2/25/2021, 3/25/2021, 4/22/2021, 6/24/2021, 7/22/2021, 8/26/2021
Lorin Eden Elementary School	1	4/26/2021, 6/3/2021
Los Banos Community Center	1	12/20/2019
Los Banos community members	1	9/22/2021
Los Banos Landowners	1	1/24/2018
Los Banos Unified School District	5	1/14/2019, 12/12/2019, 1/29/2020, 7/29/2020, 9/8/2021
Los Paseos Neighborhood Association	4	2/4/2017, 6/14/2018, 10/11/2018, 5/23/2019
Los Paseos/Metcalf Neighbors	1	3/29/2017
Madre-A-Madre	1	4/23/2020
Megaregional Rail Leadership Workshop	1	6/21/2017
Merced County Farm Bureau	1	1/24/2018
Merced County Supervisor Jerry O'Banion	1	7/5/2016
Mineta Transportation Institute	7	4/28/2017, 5/22/2018, 8/21/2018, 9/11/2018, 9/12/2018, 9/13/2018, 8/4/2021
Mineta Transportation Institute Student Association	1	2/11/2021
Mobility Partnership	2	6/10/2020, 3/10/2021
Monterey Corridor Working Group	1	4/15/2020
Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce	3	6/28/2018, 7/20/2018; 8/1/2019
Morgan Hill City Council	6	6/1/2016, 11/16/2016, 5/24/2017, 6/24/2017, 11/15/2017, 4/18/2018
Morgan Hill Community Meeting	2	9/7/2016, 9/27/2016
Morgan Hill community members	1	9/21/2021
Morgan Hill Day	1	8/14/2018
Morgan Hill Downtown Business Association	1	9/20/2016
Morgan Hill Downtown Visioning Summit	1	6/30/2016
Morgan Hill Housing Manager	1	1/15/2020
Morgan Hill Mayor Rich Constantine	1	1/7/2020

Organization/Individual	Number of Meetings Held	Meeting Dates
Morgan Hill Mayor Steve Tate	1	11/10/2016
Morgan Hill Realtors	1	10/3/2018
Morgan Hill Unified School District	9	4/21/2017, 7/11/2017, 10/12/2017, 11/13/2019, 1/15/2020, 2/12/2020, 5/5/2020, 7/20/2020, 9/29/2021
Music in the Park, Morgan Hill	1	7/5/2019
Muslim Community Association	1	4/19/2020
Next Door Solutions/Home Safe	1	2/26/2020
NFIP Floodplain Administrators and Managers	1	4/26/2018
NMFS	4	10/24/2016, 5/2/2017, 6/15/2017, 8/7/2017, 8/29/2017
NorCal Professional Environmental Marketing Association	1	6/25/2019
North Willow Glen Neighborhood	1	7/24/2018
Northern California (combined) Community Working Groups and Technical Working Groups	1	5/1/2018
Northern California Legislative Briefing: Offices of United States Senate, United States Congress, California State Senate, California State Assembly	13	4/13/2016, 3/28/2017, 1/24/2019, 4/9/2019, 7/2/2019, 10/24/2019, 3/4/2020, 7/1/2020, 9/30/2020, 12/17/2020, 2/24/2021, 5/26/2021, 9/29/2021
Northern California Resource Agencies	6	10/14/2020, 11/18/2020, 2/24/2021, 3/24/2021, 8/25/2021, 9/22/2021
Oak Grove Elementary School District	1	2/6/2020
Oak Grove High School Latino Parents	1	3/4/2020
Oak Grove Neighborhood Association	1	7/2/2018
Oak Grove School District	1	9/21/2021
Office Hours (Draft EIR/EIS)	3	5/11/2020, 5/20/2020, 5/27/2020
Old Quad Residents Association	1	3/14/2017
Open House Meetings	11	5/16/2016, 5/17/2016, 5/19/2016, 6/6/2016, 4/18/2017, 4/20/2017, 4/25/2017, 5/1/2017, 8/15/2019, 8/21/2019, 8/22/2019
Open House Webinars (Draft EIR/EIS)	3	5/11/2020, 5/14/2020, 5/18/2020
Pacheco Pass Landowners	1	11/10/2016
Pacheco Pass wildlife stakeholders	4	4/20/2021, 5/5/2021, 5/20/2021, 7/2/2021
Pacific Gas & Electric	2	6/30/2017, 12/12/2019

Organization/Individual	Number of Meetings Held	Meeting Dates
Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority	1	12/21/2016
PATH Homeless Walk, Diridon Station	1	6/14/2019
Pathways for Wildlife	9	2/13/2018, 2/14/2018, 2/28/2018, 3/14/2018, 4/27/2018, 6/13/2018, 7/18/2018, 8/22/2018, 1/10/2018
Peninsula City Mangers	1	7/20/2016
Peninsula Open Space Trust	9	2/13/2018, 2/14/2018, 2/28/2018, 3/14/2018, 4/27/2018, 6/13/2018, 7/18/2018, 8/22/2018, 1/10/2018
Picnic with San Jose Councilmember Raul Perez (information table)	1	6/10/2018
Point Blue	14	6/21/2017, 5/18/2018, 5/29/2018, 6/27/2018, 8/15/2018, 9/19/2018, 10/17/2018, 12/3/2018, 2/13/2019, 7/15/2019, 9/30/2019, 4/8/2020, 4/8/2021, 9/23/2021
Public Hearing (Draft EIR/EIS)	1	5/27/2020
Rail~volution, San Jose and San Francisco	2	10/11/2016, 10/12/2016
Rebekah Children's Services	2	7/24/2020, 9/24/2021
Reclamation	5	8/18/2016, 1/20/2017, 2/17/2017, 4/18/2017, 4/25/2017
Reddit online forum	1	12/18/2019
Refugee and Immigrant Forum of Santa Clara County	2	10/16/2019, 6/17/2020
Rocketship Mateo Sheedy Elementary	1	2/26/2020
Rocketship Schools	1	9/13/2021
Romero Ranch Landowners	1	3/15/2018
Sacred Heart Nativity, San Jose	3	12/13/2019, 1/16/2020, 9/23/2021
Salesforce Transit Center Virtual Town Hall	2	6/23/2021, 9/15/2021
SamTrans	1	3/30/2021
San Benito County Water District	1	5/31/2017
San Benito Land Trust	2	4/8/2020, 5/15/2020
San Francisco International Airport	1	7/19/2021
San Joaquin Valley Landowners	1	3/14/2017
San Jose City College	1	1/23/2020
San Jose City Council	5	6/7/2016, 3/30/2017, 5/8/2017, 5/22/2018, 8/20/2019

Organization/Individual	Number of Meetings Held	Meeting Dates
San Jose City Councilmember Ash Kalra	1	9/13/2016
San Jose City Councilmember Ash Kalra and members of the Monterey Road neighborhood	1	10/27/2016
San Jose City Councilmember Dev Davis	6	8/1/2018, 8/8/2018, 8/29/2018, 4/30/2020, 7/27/2020, 1/28/2021
San Jose City Councilmember Maya Esparza	3	3/11/2020, 8/12/2020, 8/25/2021
San Jose City Councilmember Peralez's staff	1	6/4/2018
San Jose City Councilmember Raul Peralez	8	10/5/2016, 5/3/2018, 8/1/2018, 8/8/2018, 8/29/2018, 11/8/2019, 11/5/2020, 9/20/2021
San Jose City Councilmember Sergio Jimenez	8	1/17/2017, 3/18/2017, 6/30/2017, 9/7/2018, 11/13/2019, 1/8/2020, 3/11/2020, 1/13/2021
San Jose Diridon community members	1	9/20/2021
San Jose District 2 residents	1	3/18/2017
San Jose Downtown Residents Association	1	7/27/2020
San Jose Farmers Market	1	8/9/2019
San Jose Fire Department	1	3/4/2020
San Jose Mayor Liccardo	7	6/10/2016, 12/15/2016, 3/18/2017, 8/10/2018, 3/6/2020, 4/14/2021, 7/7/2021
San Jose Moon Festival	1	9/20/2019
San Jose State University	2	11/16/2016, 9/3/2019
San Jose State University Institute of Transportation Engineers	1	10/29/2020
San Jose Unified School District	3	1/23/2020, 7/31/2020, 9/16/2021
San Jose Walking Tour	1	4/15/2016
San Jose Word of Faith Christian Center	2	2/7/2020, 4/28/2020
San Luis Canal Company	1	1/24/2018
San Martin Neighborhood Alliance	2	7/20/2017, 10/18/2018
San Mateo County Economic Development Association	1	3/9/2021
Santa Clara City Council	2	2/19/2019, 9/4/2019
Santa Clara community members	1	9/15/2021
Santa Clara County	9	2/9/2017, 4/26/2017, 2/23/2018, 7/19/2018, 4/8/2020, 5/15/2020, 5/27/2021, 7/9/2021, 9/15/2021

Organization/Individual	Number of Meetings Held	Meeting Dates
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors	2	11/15/2016, 8/29/2017
Santa Clara County Parks	3	1/23/2020, 3/2/2020, 7/23/2020
Santa Clara County Office of Supportive Housing/Homeless Services	1	9/22/2021
Santa Clara County Planning Enhancement Meeting	1	1/30/2020
Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez	2	1/4/2019, 10/3/2019
Santa Clara County Supervisor Dave Cortese's staff	1	10/2/2019
Santa Clara County Supervisor Mike Wasserman	1	1/4/2019
Santa Clara Joint Planning Advisory Committee Meeting	1	2/9/2017
Santa Clara Unified School District	4	1/16/2020, 2/6/2020, 9/10/2020, 9/24/2020
Santa Clara Valley wildlife stakeholders	2	4/9/2021, 9/24/2021
Santa Clara Valley and Pacheco Pass wildlife stakeholders	1	7/10/2019
Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency	14	2/13/2018, 2/14/2018, 2/28/2018, 3/14/2018, 4/27/2018, 5/22/2018, 6/6/2018, 6/13/2018, 7/10/2018, 7/18/2018, 8/22/2018, 1/10/2018, 4/8/2020, 5/15/2020
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority	11	2/13/2018, 2/14/2018, 2/28/2018, 3/14/2018, 4/27/2018, 6/13/2018, 7/18/2018, 8/22/2018, 1/10/2018, 4/8/2020, 5/15/2020
SAP Center	3	1/20/2017, 6/15/2017, 7/18/2018
SCVWD	6	4/11/2017, 5/24/2017, 1/4/2018, 2/23/2018, 7/18/2018, 8/23/2018
Senter Monterey Neighborhood Association	1	9/11/2017
Seven Trees Neighborhood Association	1	2/1/2017
Shasta/Hanchett Park Neighborhood Association	2	2/2/2019, 2/1/2020
Sierra Club Conservation Committee	1	2/24/2021
Silicon Valley Business Journal event	1	7/26/2016
Silicon Valley Chamber Coalition	1	9/11/2017
Silicon Valley Leadership Group	4	6/10/2016, 5/8/2020, 8/27/2020, 3/30/2021
SLDMWA	2	5/31/2017, 10/4/2017

Organization/Individual	Number of Meetings Held	Meeting Dates
Small Business Events	3	7/23/2016, 8/32/2016, 3/10/2017
Sons in Retirement Branch 125	1	9/21/2021
Sons in Retirement Branch 32	1	7/20/2016
South Bay Islamic Association (SBIA)	1	2/28/2020
South Bay Transportation Officials Association	2	6/14/2016, 3/10/2020
South San Jose community members	1	9/23/2021
Southern Pacific Retired Executives Club	1	10/5/2016
SPUR	15	10/25/2016, 4/20/2017, 6/27/2017, 7/28/2017, 8/2/2017, 9/28/2017, 4/19/2018, 10/11/2018, 1/30/2019, 8/15/2019, 2/20/2020, 11/4/2020, 3/2/2021, 7/29/2021, 8/3/3031
Stanford University	1	10/14/2020
Station Area Advisory Group (SAAG)	2	8/22/2019, 6/17/2020
STB	1	10/24/2016
Streetblog – Talking Headways recording	1	5/7/2020
Student Groups – UC Berkeley, CSU Fresno, and Fresno City College	1	11/18/2016
SWRCB	1	10/24/2016
TAMC	2	7/28/2016, 3/30/2021
Tamien Community	1	3/10/2020
Technical Working Group, Gilroy-Los Banos	10	3/29/2016, 8/9/2016, 1/26/2017, 11/7/2018, 2/19/2019, 4/17/2019, 7/8/2019, 12/19/2019, 3/5/2020, 2/25/2021
Technical Working Group, San Jose–Morgan Hill	10	3/28/2016, 8/17/2016, 1/23/2017, 11/28/2018, 2/19/2019, 4/17/2019, 7/8/2019, 12/19/2019, 3/5/2020, 2/25/2021
The Nature Conservancy	12	6/14/2017, 6/21/2017, 2/13/2018, 2/14/2018, 2/28/2018, 3/14/2018, 4/27/2018, 6/13/2018, 7/18/2018, 8/22/2018, 1/10/2018, 5/15/2020
Transbay Joint Powers Authority	3	7/28/2016, 8/8/2019, 7/31/2020
TransForm	1	7/27/2021
United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County	1	9/9/2017
University of California Berkeley Symposium	1	5/22/2017
Univision	1	12/13/2019

Organization/Individual	Number of Meetings Held	Meeting Dates
UPRR	1	1/27/2017
USACE	2	10/24/2016, 8/9/2019
USDA	2	6/14/2017, 6/21/2017
USDOT	1	6/20/2017
USEPA	2	10/24/2016, 8/9/2019
USFWS	27	10/13/2016, 10/24/2016, 10/27/2016, 11/8/2016, 12/8/2016, 1/19/2017-1/20/2017, 2/23/2017, 5/5/2017, 6/14/2017, 6/21/2017, 7/15/2017, 8/16/2017, 5/18/2018, 5/29/2018, 6/27/2018, 8/15/2018, 9/19/2018, 10/17/2018, 12/3/2018, 2/13/2019, 7/15/2019, 9/30/2019, 4/8/2020, 4/8/2021, 4/22/2021, 6/16/2021, 9/23/2021
Valley Christian High School	1	2/8/2021
Vietnamese Voluntary Foundation (VIVO) Community Meeting	1	3/6/2019
Viva Calle San Jose	1	9/18/2016
Voices Charter Academy	1	1/30/2020
Volta Community	1	3/26/2019
VTA	16	5/3/2016, 6/13/2016, 2/13/2017, 2/23/2017, 5/25/2017, 6/22/2017 (2), 9/8/2017, 9/25/2017, 1/4/2019, 1/10/2019, 8/15/2019, 7/30/2020, 1/5/2021, 3/30/2021, 7/7/2021
Walnut Grove Neighborhood Group	1	12/6/2016
Washington Elementary	1	2/6/2020
West San Jose Kiwanis Club	1	4/11/2019
Willow Glen Neighborhood Association	2	10/13/2016, 1/11/2018
Young Professionals in Infrastructure	1	7/16/2020

API = Asian Pacific Islander
 BART = Bay Area Rapid Transit
 Caltrans = California Department of Transportation
 CCID = Central California Irrigation District
 CDFW = California Department of Fish and Wildlife (from 1/1/2013)
 CHP = California Highway Patrol
 DWR = California Department of Water Resources
 EIR = environmental impact report
 EIS = environmental impact statement
 FRA = Federal Railroad Administration
 NMFS = National Marine Fisheries Service
 PATH = Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness
 PTO = Parent Teacher Organization
 Reclamation = U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation
 SCVWD = Santa Clara Valley Water District
 SLDMWA = San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority
 SPUR = San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association

SAAG = Station Area Advisory Group
STB = Surface Transportation Board
SWRCB = State Water Resources Control Board
TAMC = Transportation Agency for Monterey County
UPRR = Union Pacific Railroad
USACE = U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USDA = U.S. Department of Agriculture
USDOT = U.S. Department of Transportation
USEPA = U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
VTA = (Santa Clara) Valley Transportation Authority