



## SAN JOSE COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP

### MEETING SUMMARY

March 11, 2020

## SUMMARY

### Introductions & Agenda Review

Joey Goldman, facilitator, welcomed Community Working Group (CWG) members and thanked them for joining the meeting being conducted via webinar due to COVID-19. He reviewed the meeting agenda: overview of Draft 2020 Business Plan, preparation for the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS), and an update on outreach activities.

A participant list is in Appendix A. The presentation is available on the Authority website: [https://www.hsr.ca.gov/docs/events/202003\\_San\\_Jose\\_to\\_Merced\\_CWG\\_Presentation.pdf](https://www.hsr.ca.gov/docs/events/202003_San_Jose_to_Merced_CWG_Presentation.pdf).

### Draft 2020 Business Plan

Boris Lipkin, Northern California Regional Director, shared highlights from the Draft 2020 Business Plan. Key points included:

- To date, \$6.4 billion has been invested in the project. The range of capital costs has remained constant after accounting for inflation.
- Construction in the Central Valley is ramping up quickly and employing over 700 people per week.
- Draft 2020 Business Plan highlights include the following:
  - 350 miles of electrified high-speed rail are either under construction or headed to construction in 2020.
  - Environmental clearance for the entire Phase 1 system will be complete by 2022.
  - Business case analyses by the Authority's Early Train Operator and Financial Advisor, KPMG, recommend extending construction to Bakersfield and Merced to allow for interim service.
  - Representative Jim Costa introduced federal legislation to authorize \$32 billion to support high-speed rail projects throughout the country over the next four years.
  - After completion of environmental clearance in Northern California in 2021, next steps will include strategic right-of-way acquisitions, third-party agreements to move utilities and pre-construction work, engineering review for procurement, geotechnical analysis for tunneling through the Pacheco Pass, and closing the funding gap to begin construction.

### Questions, Comments, and Responses

- A member asked about the Authority's opinion of the recent San Jose City Council vote to use the existing rail corridor rather than an aerial option to expand rail service to Diridon Station.
  - Authority staff explained that the San Jose City Council had a study session in late January to review the potential routes for expanded service into Diridon Station as part of the Diridon Integrated Station Concept (DISC) process before voting on the issue in



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early February. The Council's vote was to use the existing rail corridor, which is in line with the partner agencies' recommendation for the DISC process and is broadly consistent with the Authority's Preferred Alternative (Alternative 4). The Authority will continue to coordinate with the City and other DISC partners on that effort, including work to address the concerns of communities along the corridor if it needs to be expanded beyond the Authority's needs.

## **Prepare for the Draft EIR/EIS**

Rich Walter, Environmental Manager with ICF, presented an overview of the environmental review process (including distinctions between NEPA and CEQA). He provided a summary of the format and content of the Draft EIR/EIS, and shared ways to access and comment on the document once it's released.

- The tentative release date of the San Jose to Merced Project Section Draft EIR/EIS is April 24, 2020. Comments will be accepted through June 8, 2020.
- The 45-day comment period for the Draft EIR/EIS is an important time to provide feedback on the project. Outreach is underway to prepare stakeholders to comment on the document.
  - The Draft EIR/EIS is lengthy and technical. Authority staff are developing supporting materials to help stakeholders navigate and understand the document.
  - The number of times a particular comment is submitted on the Draft EIR/EIS does not elevate or diminish the importance of that comment.
  - All comments will be responded to in the Final EIR/EIS.
  - Comments may be submitted via email, by mail, in writing at the Authority office or Open Houses, or verbally at the Public Hearing.

## **Questions, Comments, and Responses**

- A member asked if the 45-day comment period may be extended given the COVID-19 crisis.
  - Authority staff responded that dates shared during the presentation are tentative and that this issue is evolving on a day-to-day basis. The Authority will work closely with public health officials to adjust the schedule if necessary.
- A member asked if it would be possible to distribute printed copies of the Draft EIR/EIS document as some community members cannot access electronic versions and others are avoiding public spaces such as libraries due to health concerns.
  - Authority staff responded that, subject to any changes related to COVID-19, printed copies are also planned to be made available at the Northern California Regional Office in San Jose. Authority staff will consider other ways to make the document available to community members who are unable to visit repositories due to public health concerns and encourages members of the public who may need help accessing the document to reach out to Authority staff.

## **Outreach Update**

Morgan Galli, Northern California Regional Stakeholder Manager, provided an update on Community Working Group (CWG) outreach and upcoming opportunities for engagement. Three open houses and a public hearing will occur during the 45-day period. Authority staff will also offer office hours for members of the public to ask questions about the document or provide written comments. Authority staff also mentioned the consideration of potential changes to meeting formats due to COVID-19.



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## Questions, Comments, and Responses

- A member commented that Alternative 4 is not preferred by the community. Rather, the community is interested in a rail corridor that goes around Gardner, regardless of cost.
  - Authority staff thanked the member for their comment and encouraged them to submit their concerns via public comment on the Draft EIR/EIS.

## **Action Items and Next Steps**

- CWG members were asked to share their feedback on the webinar meeting format.
- Authority will develop and distribute a meeting summary to CWG members.
- Authority staff will consider ways to make printed copies of the Draft EIR/EIS available to community members who might need to avoid repositories like libraries due to public health concerns.



## Appendix A – Participants

### San Jose Community Working Group Members:

Affiliation	Name	Present
Alma Neighborhood Association	Cyndy Broyles	No
Bellarmine College Preparatory	Brian Adams	Yes
California Maison Homeowners Association/Metcalf Neighborhood	Patricia Carlin, Jahanzeb Baqai	No
Committee for Green Foothills	Julie Hutcheson, Alice Kaufman	No
D10 Leadership Coalition	Steve Levin	No
Delmas Park Neighborhood Association	Bert Weaver	Yes
District 10 Leadership Coalition/VEP Community Association	Marilyn Rodgers	No
Downtown Residents Association	Bill Souders	Yes
Flowers Neighborhood Association	Matthew Young	Yes
Friends of Caltrain	Adina Levin	No
Gardner Neighborhood	Kevin Christman, Robert Jones	No
Greenbelt Alliance	Zoe Siegel, Kiyomi Yamamoto	No
Guadalupe Washington Neighborhood Association	Ray Moreno	No
Hayes Neighborhood Association	Brendan McCarthy, Manny Souza	No
Hellyer-Christopher Riverview Skyway Neighborhood Association	Stephani Rideau	No
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Silicon Valley	Dennis King	No
Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley	Ron Gonzales	No
League of Women Voters in San Jose and Santa Clara	Karen Nelson, Bob Ruff	No
Los Paseos Neighborhood Association	Barbara Buchanan	Yes
Mexican-American Political Association (M.A.P.A.)	Danny Garza	Yes
Newhall Neighborhood Association	Matt Bright, John Urban	No
North Willow Glen Neighborhood Association	Harvey Darnell	Yes
Oak Grove Neighborhood Association	James Patterson	No
San Jose Downtown Association	Marie Millares	Yes
San Jose State University	Monica Mallon	Yes
Santa Clara & San Benito Counties Building & Construction Trades Council	David Bini, Jean Cohen	No
SAP Center	Mike McCarroll	Yes
Senter Monterey Neighborhood Association	Jonathan Fleming	No
SPUR San Jose	Michelle Huttenhoff	Yes
The Silicon Valley Organization	Matthew Mahood, Eddie Truong	No
Tulare Hill Homeowners Association	Brian Gurney	No
United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County	Ed Rast	Yes
VEP Community Association	Rich Giammona	No
Working Partnerships USA	Jeffrey Buchanan, Asn Ndaiye	No



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**Authority Staff:** Boris Lipkin, Morgan Galli, Dave Shpak, Yosef Yip, Rich Walter, Mary Beth Day, Abby Fullem, Joey Goldman