

California High-Speed Rail: Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section

Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Pursuant to:
California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Res. Code, § 21000 et seq.)
State of California CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., Tit. 14, §15000 et seq.)
National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 4331 et seq.),
40 C.F.R. Part 1500-1508, 64 Fed. Reg. 28545, 49 U.S.C. § 303, and 23 U.S.C. § 327

Prepared by the
California High-Speed Rail Authority

[Signed by Brian Kelly on February 10, 2021]

Brian P. Kelly
Chief Executive Officer
California High-Speed Rail Authority

Date: _____

For additional information concerning this document, contact:

Serge Stanich
California High-Speed Rail Authority
770 L Street, Suite 620 MS-1
Sacramento, CA 95814

Abstract: The Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS was prepared as a joint document to meet all pertinent requirements of both CEQA and NEPA. Following NEPA Assignment on July 23, 2019, the Authority has assumed the role of federal lead agency on the project.

This document considers, describes, and summarizes the environmental impacts at a project level of analysis of a proposed high-speed rail system for intercity travel between Bakersfield and Palmdale, California on Monarch butterfly and mountain lion. Four primary build alternatives are considered with two design options. In addition to providing new information about mountain lion and monarch butterfly, the Authority has identified two new mitigation measures to address impacts to wildlife resulting from lighting during construction and during project operation.

Impact avoidance and minimization features, along with mitigation measures, are described to guide high-speed rail environmental review to avoid or minimize potential impacts.

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