

# Submission 992 (Michael Behen, City of Palmdale, April 13, 2021)

Bakersfield - Palmdale - RECORD #992 DETAIL	
<b>Status :</b>	Action Pending
<b>Record Date :</b>	5/7/2021
<b>Affiliation Type :</b>	Local Agency
<b>Submission Date :</b>	4/13/2021
<b>Interest As :</b>	Local Agency
<b>Submission Method :</b>	Email
<b>First Name :</b>	Michael
<b>Last Name :</b>	Behen
<b>Professional Title :</b>	Deputy City Manager
<b>Business/Organization :</b>	City of Palmdale
<b>Address :</b>	38300 Sierra Highway
<b>Apt./Suite No. :</b>	Suite A
<b>City :</b>	Palmdale
<b>State :</b>	CA
<b>Zip Code :</b>	93550
<b>Telephone :</b>	(661) 267-5337
<b>Email :</b>	mbehen@cityofpalmdale.org
<b>Cell Phone :</b>	(661) 810-6978
<b>Email Subscription :</b>	
<b>Add to Mailing List :</b>	Yes
<b>EIR/EIS Comment :</b>	No
<b>Attachments :</b>	992_CityofPalmdale_email_04132021.pdf (64 kb)

992-1283

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**From:** Mike Behen <mbehen@cityofpalmdale.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 13, 2021 4:56 PM  
**To:** Cederoth, Margaret (Meg)@HSR <margaret.cederoth@hsr.ca.gov>  
**Cc:** Lichy, Ben@HSR <Ben.Lichy@HSR.CA.GOV>  
**Subject:** CHSRA - Bakersfield to Palmdale Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

The City of Palmdale has reviewed the above-referenced document and has no comments at this time. Please contact me at 661-267-5337 if you have any questions. Sincerely, Mike Behen

Michael "Mike" Behen  
 Deputy City Manager  
 38300 Sierra Highway, Suite A  
 Palmdale, CA 93550  
 661-810-6978 (cell)  
[mbehen@cityofpalmdale.org](mailto:mbehen@cityofpalmdale.org)

## Response to Submission 992 (Michael Behen, City of Palmdale, April 13, 2021)

### 992-1283

The commenter acknowledges that the City of Palmdale has no comment on the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement at this time. This comment does not address the technical analysis of the Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS nor does it suggest edits to the document. No change has been made to the document in response to this comment.

## Submission 866 (Jay Schlosser, City of Tehachapi, March 1, 2021)

**Bakersfield - Palmdale - RECORD #866 DETAIL**

**Status :** Action Pending  
**Record Date :** 3/1/2021  
**Affiliation Type :** Local Agency  
**Submission Date :** 3/1/2021  
**Interest As :** Local Agency  
**Submission Method :** Project Email  
**First Name :** Jay  
**Last Name :** Schlosser  
**Professional Title :** Development Services Director  
**Business/Organization :** City of Tehachapi  
**Address :** 117 S Robinson Street  
**Apt./Suite No. :**  
**City :** Tehachapi  
**State :** CA  
**Zip Code :** 93561  
**Telephone :** 661-822-2200 ext 115  
**Email :** jschlosser@tehachapicityhall.com  
**Cell Phone :**  
**Email Subscription :** Bakersfield to Palmdale  
 , Press Releases  
**Add to Mailing List :** Yes  
**EIR/EIS Comment :** Yes

**Stakeholder Comments/Issues :**

866-973 | The City of Tehachapi provided comments to the first draft of the Bakersfield to Palmdale section. Would you please send us an electronic copy of the entire revised EIR/EIS?

Thanks

John (Jay) H. Schlosser, P.E.  
 Development Services Director  
 City of Tehachapi  
 Office: 661-822-2200 ext 115

[City Logo for Email] <<http://www.tehachapicityhall.com/>>

[cid:image002.png@01D70E6D.8598B280] <<https://twitter.com/cityoftehachapi>>

[cid:image003.png@01D70E6D.8598B280] <<https://www.instagram.com/cityoftehachapi/>>

[cid:image004.png@01D70E6D.8598B280]

<<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0HOSFazMT27ynDXhkUQ0A>> [facebook-email]

<<http://www.facebook.com/cityoftehachapi>>

## Response to Submission 866 (Jay Schlosser, City of Tehachapi, March 1, 2021)

### 866-973

Per the commenter's request, the Authority emailed the commenter to acknowledge his request and to direct him to website for electronic versions. During the March 17, 2021 coordination meeting with the City of Tehachapi staff, the Authority followed up with the commenter to ask if he would like copies mailed. The commenter confirmed that website versions satisfied his request.

# Submission 872 (Jay Schlosser, City of Tehachapi, March 8, 2021)

**Bakersfield - Palmdale - RECORD #872 DETAIL**

**Status :** Action Pending  
**Record Date :** 3/9/2021  
**Affiliation Type :** Local Agency  
**Submission Date :** 3/8/2021  
**Interest As :** Local Agency  
**Submission Method :** Project Email  
**First Name :** Jay  
**Last Name :** Schlosser  
**Professional Title :** Development Services Director  
**Business/Organization :** City of Tehachapi  
**Address :** 115 S Robinson Street  
**Apt./Suite No. :**  
**City :** Tehachapi  
**State :** CA  
**Zip Code :** 93561  
**Telephone :**  
**Email :** jschlosser@tehachapicityhall.com  
**Cell Phone :**  
**Email Subscription :**  
**Add to Mailing List :**  
**EIR/EIS Comment :**  
**Stakeholder Comments/Issues :**

Development Services Director  
 City of Tehachapi  
 Office: 661-822-2200 ext 115  
 [City Logo for Email]<http://www.tehachapicityhall.com/>  
 [cid:image002.png@01D7140F.EE6DB0B0]<https://twitter.com/cityoftehachapi>  
 [cid:image003.png@01D7140F.EE6DB0B0] <https://www.instagram.com/cityoftehachapi/>  
 [cid:image004.png@01D7140F.EE6DB0B0]  
 <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCh0HOSFazMT27ynDXhkUQ0A> [facebook-email]  
 <http://www.facebook.com/cityoftehachapi>

872-978 | I have not received a response to the below email. Please provide a full copy of the revised EIR/EIS

John (Jay) H. Schlosser, P.E.  
 Development Services Director  
 City of Tehachapi  
 Office: 661-822-2200 ext 115  
 [City Logo for Email]<http://www.tehachapicityhall.com/>  
 [cid:image002.png@01D7140F.EE6DB0B0]<https://twitter.com/cityoftehachapi>  
 [cid:image003.png@01D7140F.EE6DB0B0] <https://www.instagram.com/cityoftehachapi/>  
 [cid:image004.png@01D7140F.EE6DB0B0]  
 <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCh0HOSFazMT27ynDXhkUQ0A> [facebook-email]  
 <http://www.facebook.com/cityoftehachapi>

From: Jay Schlosser  
 Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:36 AM  
 To: Bakersfield\_Palmdale@hsr.ca.gov  
 Subject: HSRA Web Inquiry: Project Section Environmental Documents

The City of Tehachapi provided comments to the first draft of the Bakersfield to Palmdale section. Would you please send us an electronic copy of the entire revised EIR/EIS?

Thanks  
John (Jay) H. Schlosser, P.E.

## Response to Submission 872 (Jay Schlosser, City of Tehachapi, March 8, 2021)

### 872-978

Refer to Response to Comment 866-973, contained in this chapter.

Submission 908 (Robert Ball, Kern COG, April 6, 2021)

Bakersfield - Palmdale - RECORD #908 DETAIL	
Status :	Action Pending
Record Date :	4/6/2021
Affiliation Type :	Local Agency
Submission Date :	4/6/2021
Interest As :	Local Agency
Submission Method :	Website
First Name :	Robert
Last Name :	Ball
Professional Title :	Deputy Director/Planning Director
Business/Organization :	Kern COG
Address :	
Apt./Suite No. :	
City :	Bakersfield
State :	CA
Zip Code :	93301
Telephone :	+666616352902
Email :	rball@kerncog.org
Cell Phone :	
Email Subscription :	Bakersfield to Palmdale , Construction Package 4 Updates, Locally Generated Alternative (Bakersfield)
Add to Mailing List :	Yes
EIR/EIS Comment :	
Attachments :	31011_KernCOGComments-B-PRvisedEIR4-6-21v3.pdf (248 kb)
Stakeholder Comments/Issues :	
Uploaded a 3 page comment letter on the B - P Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS released in February 2021.	908-1037
	908-1038
	908-1039



April 6, 2021

Tom Richards, Chair and Board of Directors  
California High-Speed Rail Authority  
355 S. Grand Avenue, Suite 2050  
Los Angeles, CA 90071

**Attn: Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS for the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section**

Dear Chairperson Richards and Directors:

Thank you for the opportunity for Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG) to provide comments and recommendations regarding the Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental EIS released for public review on February 26, 2021. As you may be aware Kern COG and its staff have been coordinating with your project for over twenty-five years. Please note that this comment is in addition to our comment letter on the original Draft EIR/EIS released last Spring. It is important to note that 20% of the Phase I. System passes through Kern County. It would benefit the project if the Authority would add a representative from Kern to the Authority Board of Directors.

Thank you to your staff for meeting with Kern COG, and The Nature Conservancy on April 2, 2021. At that meeting we discussed the following facts:

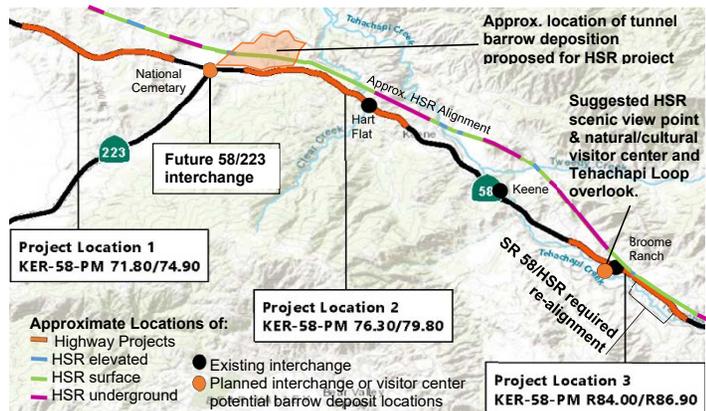
- 1) The Southern California and Central Coast mountain lion (*Puma concolor*) are being listed as endangered.
- 2) Creating/preserving a habitat corridor connecting the Southern California/Central Coast habitat with the Sierra Nevada habitat will promote essential genetic diversity among the mountain lion population to allow them to recover.
- 3) The HSR project needs to enable a corridor or corridors for mountain lion habitat migration between the Southern California/Central Coast habitats and the Sierra Nevada habitat.
- 4) This corridor is being further degraded by this HSR segment. The project needs to mitigate this degradation by promoting the migration of mountain lions and their prey to easily travel between the Sierra and Coastal regions.
- 5) In July 2019, a roadkill survey provided a snapshot of the segment of SR 58 paralleling the HSR Corridor in the EIR/EIS between SR 223 and Tehachapi. The survey logged the following takes or kills: 1 mountain lion, 6 mule deer, 7 bobcats, and 11 coyotes killed in the 18 mo. prior. It appears the mountain lions are following their prey through this corridor.

Kern Council of Governments  
1401 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300 Bakersfield CA 93301 661-635-2900 Facsimile 661-324-8215 TTY 661-832-7433 [www.kerncog.org](http://www.kerncog.org)

Submission 908 (Robert Ball, Kern COG, April 6, 2021) - Continued

908-1040

- 6) The HSR project degrades this migratory route not only by providing a physical barrier for long stretches of the corridor but by the degradation of the deposition of a barrow or waste dirt/rock over pristine mountain lion habitat in the corridor.
- 7) The Bakersfield to Palmdale segment includes the identification of extensive excavation/tunneling waste dirt or barrow fill. The EIR suggests spreading this out near the SR 58/223 interchange in a layer 4' deep, covering hundreds of acres



(see photo and map). Planned projects at five locations along the SR 58 grade could use more than 150,000 cubic yards of barrow at 3 future truck climbing lanes (see map project locations 1-3), the future interchange of SR 58/223, and a potential HSR tourist/visitor center (with nature/history interpretive center) overlooking the world-famous historic Tehachapi Loop. In addition, the HSR project plans to re-align a long section of SR 58 which will also require considerable fill dirt (see map). By placing and compacting the barrow at these exact locations where needed, the authority will reduce overall GHG emissions from trucking and grading the barrow, as well as reduce overall costs for all these projects because

908-1040

they are located closer to the source of the tunnel barrow than the more habitat destructive B-P DEIR/EIS location, destroying hundreds of acres of topsoil by spreading the crushed rock from tunneling 4-feet deep over pristine oak woodland (see photo and map).

Caltrans has already completed a Project Study Report (PSR) for the three truck climbing project locations. Project location 3, East of Broome Rd, coincides with the realignment of SR 58 proposed in the HSR B-P DEIR/EIS. The required realignment must include the truck climbing lanes identified by Caltrans. In doing so, this will ensure a more ecologically sound deposition of the tunnel barrow.

908-1041

- 8) By coordinating barrow deposition between the HSR tunneling and improvements to SR 58, the closer proximity of the SR 58 project will significantly reduce the cost of transport to the HSR project and the GHG and health-based criteria emissions. The availability of the barrow will also reduce the cost of the planned SR 58 safety improvements.

908-1042

- 9) To coordinate deposition of the barrow to reduce impact to the mountain lion habitat and migration corridor, the timing of the SR 58 safety improvement construction projects will need to be coordinated as follows:
  - a) Design work on this segment of HSR B-P alignment needs to be brought up to 40%, from the current 15% design for the EIR/EIS to identify where barrow needs to be transported to and from.
  - b) Environmental and design work on the SR 58 projects need to be far enough along to identify the location and amount of deposition of barrow from the HSR project as well as the required temporary transport routes.
  - c) Project funding must be secured on both projects for the above tasks for this coordination to take place.

908-1043

Kern COG staff requests the following mitigation be added to the HSR B-P EIR/EIS:

**Proposed New Mitigation Measure - The HSR Authority will coordinate with Caltrans to identifying locations for excavated barrow deposition along SR 58 to minimize impact to endangered Mountain Lion habitat. The HSR Authority or their consultants will complete a 40% design work with an option to deposit excavation barrow along SR 58 as designed and environmentally cleared by Caltrans.**

Please contact Robert Ball of our office at 661-635-2902, [rball@kerncoq.org](mailto:rball@kerncoq.org) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ahron Hakimi,  
Executive Director

## Response to Submission 908 (Robert Ball, Kern COG, April 6, 2021)

### 908-1037

While this comment is not related to the new information about the monarch butterfly and Southern California and Central Coast mountain lion as candidate species under the Endangered Species Act, and new mitigation measures to address impacts to wildlife resulting from lighting during construction and project operation in the Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS, the Authority appreciates all comments and is responding in full here.

The Authority appreciates and welcomes the Kern COG's continued involvement and interest in the HSR project.

### 908-1038

The commenter notes that the Southern California and Central Coast mountain lions are being listed as endangered and creating or preserving habitat connections will promote genetic diversity among mountain lion populations. As discussed in Chapter 3.7, the Southern California and Central Coast mountain lions are candidates for state listing as a threatened species. As discussed in the Biological and Aquatic Resources Technical Report (BARTR) and Appendix I, Wildlife Corridor Assessment (WCA) Report, the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section maintains intact habitat across the project alignment at the tunnels and viaducts that provide opportunities for the inter-movement of the Western Sierra Nevada population with the southern California and central coast evolutionarily significant unit (ESU) of mountain lion that would help maintain essential genetic diversity.

The commenter also states that the HSR project needs to enable mountain lion migration between the Southern California/Central Coast habitats and the Sierra Nevada habitat. As shown on Figure 4-3, Figure 4-4, and Figure 4-7 of the WCA, the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section maintains opportunities for wildlife to cross the project alignment through the use of elevated viaducts, underground tunnels, and dedicated wildlife crossings, including the mountain lion least cost corridor and Linkage design identified by South Coast Wildlands in the South Coast Missing Linkages Project: A Linkage Design for the Tehachapi Connection (Penrod et al. 2003).

The commenter further states that the HSR project is degrading the migration corridor and needs to mitigate for degradation of connectivity between the Southern California/Central Coast habitat and the Sierra Nevada habitat. As shown on Figure 4-3 and Figure 4-7 of the WCA, the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section maintains opportunities for mountain lion and their prey to cross the Tehachapi Mountains connecting the Sierra Nevada Mountains with the Southern California, Coastal Ranges, Transverse Ranges, and Peninsular Ranges.

## Response to Submission 908 (Robert Ball, Kern COG, April 6, 2021) - Continued

### 908-1039

The commenter states that 2019 roadkill data for a segment of State Route (SR) 58 in the vicinity of the proposed HSR alignment suggests that mountain lions are following their prey through the study corridor. The July 2019 data shows locational data of where wildlife has been killed on SR 58. There does not appear to be a geographic correlation between predator and prey through this corridor. Specifically, the study shows single mountain lion killed on SR 58 south of Keene and the nearest mule deer killed on SR 58 is approximately 1 mile. All six mule deer roadkill recorded were at distinctly separate locations. The nearest mule deer roadkill found on SR 58 was within 0.5 mile of each other near Cable.

### 908-1040

The commenter states that the HSR project would degrade the migration corridor by creating a physical barrier and by deposition of excess fill in the proposed stockpile area. As shown in Figure 4-7 of the WCA, the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section maintains opportunities for wildlife to cross the project alignment through the use of elevated viaducts, underground tunnels, and dedicated wildlife crossings, including at the proposed stockpile location. The existing topsoil at the stockpile location would be salvaged and placed on top of the contoured stockpile for oak woodland restoration. The stockpile would be contoured to facilitate wildlife movement towards a planned wildlife crossing. Oak trees that can be salvaged will be transplanted and acorns will be harvested and planted on-site to preserve genetic connectivity of the local oak population. For discussion of wildlife corridor crossing opportunities along the HSR corridor, refer to Response to Comment 777-313, contained in Chapter 25 of this Final EIR/EIS. The Authority and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) have initiated discussions to transfer excess fill material for use in Caltrans projects in an effort to minimize placement of fill in the proposed stockpile area. As discussed in the meeting between the Authority, Caltrans, and Kern COG on April 2, 2021, the ability to use excess material from the high-speed rail project as imported borrow material for Caltrans' SR 58 improvements, will be dependent upon the timing of the two projects, neither of which is currently funded for construction. Should high-speed rail construction occur prior to the SR 58 improvements, the Authority will request Caltrans to identify suitable areas adjacent to SR 58 where the excess material could be stockpiled for future use for SR 58 project construction. The Authority will continue to coordinate with Caltrans regarding the construction schedules for the high-speed rail project and planned improvements to SR 58.

The proposed stockpile area north of SR 58 near Bealville Road has been proposed as part of the Refined CCNM Design Option as an area for the construction contractor to place excess materials from project grading and tunneling. The stockpile area location was based on its proximity to the Refined CCNM Design Option construction area where the excess materials would be generated. Providing a stockpile area as close as possible to the construction area will minimize the length of truck haul trips and the associated vehicle miles traveled and vehicle emissions. The need for the construction contractor to use any of this stockpile area will depend upon how the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section is broken into construction packages for a future design-build

## Response to Submission 908 (Robert Ball, Kern COG, April 6, 2021) - Continued

### 908-1040

contractor procurement.

Because the extent of the use of the proposed stockpile site is unknown, the EIR/EIS conservatively characterizes the entire area as potential permanent impact. Although the actual area is expected to be less than estimated in the EIR/EIS, the EIR/EIS provides sufficient detail to analyze potential environmental impacts.

### 908-1041

The commenter requests that borrow deposition be coordinated between the high-speed rail project and planned improvements to State Route 58 (SR 58) to reduce cost and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. As discussed in the meeting between the Authority and Kern COG on April 2, 2021, the ability to use excess material from the high-speed rail project as imported borrow material for Caltrans' SR 58 improvements, will be dependent upon the timing of the two projects, neither of which is currently funded for construction. Should high-speed rail construction occur prior to the SR 58 improvements, the Authority will request Caltrans to identify suitable areas adjacent to SR 58 where the excess material could be stockpiled for future use for SR 58 project construction. The Authority will continue to coordinate with Caltrans regarding the construction schedules for the high-speed rail project and planned improvements to SR 58.

### 908-1042

The commenter states that additional design is needed and funding secured for the high-speed rail project and the SR 58 Widening Project to identify the location and amount of borrow available. The schedule for completing the 40 percent design and updated quantities of available borrow for the high-speed rail is unknown as funding has not yet been programmed for this work. The design and funding for improvements to SR 58 project is the responsibility of Caltrans and outside the Authority's control. Should high-speed rail construction occur prior to the SR 58 improvements, the Authority will request Caltrans to identify suitable areas adjacent to SR 58 where the excess material could be stockpiled for future use for SR 58 project construction. The Authority will continue to coordinate with Caltrans regarding the construction schedules for the high-speed rail project and planned improvements to SR 58.

Since the extent of the use of the proposed stockpile site is unknown, the EIR/EIS conservatively characterizes the entire area as potential permanent impact. Although the actual area is expected to be less than estimated in the EIR/EIS, the EIR/EIS provides sufficient detail to analyze potential environmental impacts. Additionally, the area will be contoured and revegetated with blue oak woodland to help facilitate wildlife movement at those wildlife crossing locations, as described in Mitigation Measure BIO-MM#6 of this Final EIR/EIS.

## Response to Submission 908 (Robert Ball, Kern COG, April 6, 2021) - Continued

### 908-1043

The commenter requests the addition of a mitigation measure requiring future coordination efforts with Caltrans to identify opportunities to use the excess fill generated by the HSR project on Caltrans projects. The Authority and Caltrans have initiated discussions to transfer excess fill material for use in Caltrans projects in an effort to minimize placement of fill in the proposed stockpile area. However, the schedule for completing the 40 percent design and updated quantities of available borrow for the high-speed rail is unknown as funding has not yet been programmed for this work. The design and funding for improvements to SR 58 project is outside of the control of the Authority. Should high-speed rail construction occur prior to the SR 58 improvements, the Authority will request Caltrans to identify suitable areas adjacent to SR 58 where the excess material could be stockpiled for future use for SR 58 project construction. The Authority will continue to coordinate with Caltrans regarding the construction schedules for the high-speed rail project and planned improvements to SR 58.

The requested mitigation measure has not been added to this Final EIR/EIS because existing mitigation measure BIO-MM#85 provides superior mitigation for impacts to core and patch habitat for mountain lion by providing compensatory mitigation for loss of habitat.

## Submission 874 (Robert Ball, Kern County Council of Governments, March 9, 2021)

**Bakersfield - Palmdale - RECORD #874 DETAIL**

**Status :** Action Pending  
**Record Date :** 3/9/2021  
**Affiliation Type :** Local Agency  
**Submission Date :** 3/9/2021  
**Interest As :** Local Agency  
**Submission Method :** Telephone  
**First Name :** Robert  
**Last Name :** Ball  
**Professional Title :**  
**Business/Organization :** Kern County Council of Governments  
**Address :**  
**Apt./Suite No. :**  
**City :**  
**State :** CA  
**Zip Code :** 0000  
**Telephone :** (661) 496-6158  
**Email :**  
**Cell Phone :**  
**Email Subscription :**  
**Add to Mailing List :** Yes  
**EIR/EIS Comment :** No

**Stakeholder Comments/Issues :**

874-980

This is Rob Ball calling from Kern County Council of Governments my number is (661) 496-6158, that's my cell phone number. Uh.. we'd like to set up a meeting with Authority staff on a comment that we are developing on the revised um uh Bakerkersfield to Palmdale uh EIR uh that's due April 12th and and we are developing some comments uh related to uh mountain lion crossings of uh the high-speed rail corridor. If you give me a call back I'd appreciate it, at that number and uh see how we can set up a meeting with the appropriate staff at high-speed rail Authority on that. Appreciated it thanks, bye.

## Response to Submission 874 (Robert Ball, Kern County Council of Governments, March 9, 2021)

### 874-980

Per the request of the commenter, the Authority met with KernCOG staff, Caltrans District 9 staff, and representatives of The Nature Conservancy on April 2, 2021.

# Submission 969 (Jeff Gletne, Kern County Fire Department, April 12, 2021)

Bakersfield - Palmdale - RECORD #969 DETAIL	
Status :	Action Pending
Record Date :	4/12/2021
Affiliation Type :	State Agency
Submission Date :	4/12/2021
Interest As :	State Agency
Submission Method :	Project Email
First Name :	Jeff
Last Name :	Gletne
Professional Title :	Forester
Business/Organization :	Kern County Fire Department
Address :	5642 Victor Street
Apt./Suite No. :	
City :	Bakersfield
State :	CA
Zip Code :	93308
Telephone :	(661) 391-7000
Email :	David.Shy@fire.ca.gov
Cell Phone :	
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Add to Mailing List :	
EIR/EIS Comment :	
Stakeholder Comments/Issues :	

In put from Kern Co. Fire

David Shy  
 Division Chief - Pre Fire  
 [Description: cid:image001.jpg@01CCFB0C.8B719D80] [Description: cid:image002.gif@01CCFB0C.8B719D80]  
 Tulare Unit  
 (559)732-5954 ext. 105 Office  
 (559)280-5077 Cell  
 (559)732-5963 FAX

From: Jeff Gletne <jgletne@kerncountyfire.org>  
 Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 2:10 PM  
 To: Shy, David@CALFIRE <David.Shy@fire.ca.gov>  
 Cc: Corey Regan <cregan@kerncountyfire.org>  
 Subject: High Speed Rail letter

Warning: this message is from an external user and should be treated with caution.  
 Hi Dave  
 Could you forward this letter to the appropriate person? Thank you.

Jeff

**David Witt**  
**Fire Chief & Director of Emergency Services**

Fire Department Headquarters  
 5642 Victor Street • Bakersfield, CA 93308 • www.kerncountyfire.org  
 Telephone 661-391-7000 • FAX 661-399-2915 • TTY Relay 800-735-2929  
 April 12, 2021



Jeff Gletne, Forester  
 Kern County Fire Department  
 5642 Victor St.  
 Bakersfield, CA 93308

Via email to:

**RE: COMMENTS FOR THE HIGH-SPEED RAIL BAKERSFIELD TO PALMDALE PROJECT SECTION REVISED DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

**PROJECT REVIEW INPUT  
 AS REQUIRED BY THE  
 CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT  
 AND  
 FIRE SAFE REGULATION**

The Kern County Fire Department has no comment on the latest revision to the Draft EIR regarding two new candidate species.

969-1201 However, the KCFD's primary fire protection responsibilities are on lands declared by to be SRA. The SRA Fire Safe Regulations were prepared and adopted for the purposes of establishing minimum wildfire protection standards in conjunction with building, construction, and development in SRA. These regulations apply to the perimeters and access to all residential, commercial, and industrial building construction approved after January 1, 1991. The regulations include minimum standards for the following:

- 1) Road standards for fire equipment access.
- 2) Standards for signs identifying streets, roads, and buildings.
- 3) Minimum private water supply reserves for emergency fire use.
- 4) Fuel breaks and greenbelts

These regulations do not supersede local regulations which equal or exceed minimum regulations adopted by the State. Additionally, exceptions to these standards may be allowed by the inspection entity listed in 14 CCR § 1270.05, where the exceptions provide the same overall practical effect as these regulations. Exceptions granted by the inspection entity listed in 14 CCR § 1270.05 shall be made on a case-by-case basis only.

Based on the aforementioned regulations the KCFD requests that you address the following comment(s) in the Revised Draft EIR:

1. Please demonstrate, in the form of written evidence, compliance with established minimum wildfire protection standards as described under CCR Title 14 Natural Resources Division, 1.5 Department of Forestry, Chapter 7 – Fire Protection, Subchapter 2 - SRA Fire Safe Regulations.

Thank you for your consideration of these comment(s). The KCFD appreciates your efforts to address these critical issues.

Sincerely,

Jeff Gletne, Forester

Proudly Serving the Cities of Arvin, Bakersfield, Delano, Maricopa, McFarland, Ridgecrest, Shafter, Taft, Tehachapi, Wasco, and all Unincorporated Areas of Kern County

## Response to Submission 969 (Jeff Gletne, Kern County Fire Department, April 12, 2021)

### 969-1201

While this comment is not related to the new information about the monarch butterfly and Southern California and Central Coast mountain lion as candidate species under the Endangered Species Act, and new mitigation measures to address impacts to wildlife resulting from lighting during construction and project operation in the Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS, the Authority appreciates all comments and is responding in full here.

As discussed in Section 3.11.4.2 of this Final EIR/EIS, the Preferred Alternative is on SRA and LRA land with Moderate and High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. The protection standards listed in CCR Title 14 Natural Resources Division, 1.5 Department of Forestry, Chapter 7 –Fire Protection, Subchapter 2 - SRA Fire Safe Regulations are specific to emergency access, signing and building numbering, emergency water standards, and fuel modification standards. While the standards are more focused on roadway modification projects and development of inhabited structures, the HSR project would ensure roadway modifications associated with the proposed project include roadway signage that is visible and appropriately sized. Additionally, any facilities developed as part of the HSR project would include appropriately sized signage. Finally, the Contractor will be required to remove flammable vegetation and fuels from the construction site and dispose at an approved landfill site, consistent with CCR Title 14, 1.5 Department of Forestry, Chapter 7, Subchapter 2, Article 5, Section 1276.02.

## Submission 865 (Mike Zulfa, Kern High School District, February 26, 2021)

**Bakersfield - Palmdale - RECORD #865 DETAIL**

**Status :** Action Pending  
**Record Date :** 2/26/2021  
**Affiliation Type :** Business and/or Organization  
**Submission Date :** 2/26/2021  
**Interest As :** Business and/or Organization  
**Submission Method :** Project Email  
**First Name :** Mike  
**Last Name :** Zulfa  
**Professional Title :** Associate Superintendent of Business  
**Business/Organization :** Kern High School District  
**Address :**  
**Apt./Suite No. :**  
**City :**  
**State :** CA  
**Zip Code :** 00000  
**Telephone :**  
**Email :** Mike\_Zulfa@kernhigh.org  
**Cell Phone :**  
**Email Subscription :** Bakersfield to Palmdale  
, Press Releases  
**Add to Mailing List :** Yes  
**EIR/EIS Comment :**

**Stakeholder Comments/Issues :**

Good afternoon,

I am the new Associate Superintendent of Business for the Kern High School District.

865-972 | Can you please add me to the list of recipients of information for the Bakersfield-Palmdale HSR project?

Thank you,

Michael Zulfa

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## Response to Submission 865 (Mike Zulfa, Kern High School District, February 26, 2021)

### 865-972

The commenter requested to be added to the distribution list for the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section. The commenter has been added to the distribution list and is listed in Chapter 10 of this Final EIR/EIS.