

GET THE FACTS:

CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL

The California High-Speed Rail Authority is responsible for planning, designing, building and operating the first high-speed rail system in the nation. High-speed rail will connect California's megaregions, starting with the Merced to Bakersfield line as the first part of a building block approach. This high-profile project has generated significant publicity, leading to speculation and rumor. It is important to separate fact from fiction.

Myth: Building High-Speed Rail Causes More Pollution Than it Will Save.



Fact:

Contract requirements dictate our construction sites have significantly better air quality than the California average. Our contractors use Tier 4 on- and off-road vehicles and technology to reduce nitrogen dioxide emissions. Our site emissions are 60% lower than the state average.

The Authority received the Envision Platinum rating from the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure, its highest-level award.

Myth: High-Speed Rail Causes Sprawl.

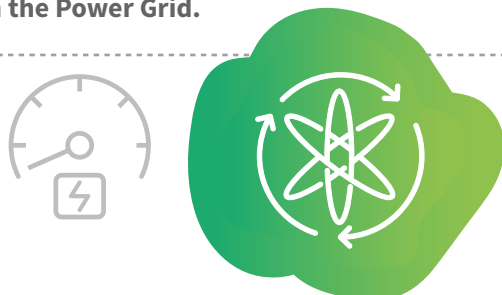


Fact:

More than \$10 million in funding has been awarded for station area planning efforts, which will help create thriving and sustainable station area districts.

Planning among key cities creates meaningful connections and economic opportunities.

Myth: High-Speed Rail Will be a Drain on the Power Grid.



Fact:

The high-speed rail system will run on electricity supplied entirely from renewable sources.

The Authority is committed to using 100% renewable energy to operate our trains and facilities.

Myth: High-Speed Rail Does Nothing to Reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Now.



Fact:

At this very moment, rail crossings throughout northern and southern California are being upgraded or eliminated. This reduces traffic congestion, improves safety and cuts GHG emissions from idling vehicles. A single rail crossing can cause up to 45 days of stopped traffic per year, which results in about 1,800 tons of GHG emissions annually.

Myth: Investing Cap-and-Trade Proceeds In High-Speed Rail Has Produced No Results.



Fact:

Cap-and-Trade funding has helped spur nearly \$4 billion of economic activity in disadvantaged communities and more than 400 disadvantaged workers have been dispatched to construction projects. Of the nearly 700 small businesses participating in the high-speed rail program, 225 are Disadvantaged Business Enterprises. Almost 8,000 jobs have been created to work on building high-speed rail.

Myth: California Could Make Better Transportation Investments.



Fact:

Transportation accounts for the majority of emissions in California, and high-speed rail will help the state achieve its long-term climate goals by reducing transportation emissions. High-speed rail is a critical part of California’s sustainable transportation network. The goals of high-speed rail are reducing congestion and pollution while improving mobility and increasing access to jobs and affordable housing. As California’s population rises and our economy continues to grow, high-speed rail is the only mode that meets every one of these goals.



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