

**California High-Speed Rail  
Authority Board Meeting Minutes  
January 19-20, 2022**

**Webcast**

<http://www.hsr.ca.gov/>

The meeting of the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) Board convened on January 19-20, 2022, via webinar due to Governor Newsom's State of Emergency declaration regarding the COVID-19 outbreak and in accordance with Executive Order N-25-20 and the Guidance for Gatherings issued by the California Department of Public Health. The minutes were prepared in the order items were presented during the meeting.

**January 19, 2022  
11:00 a.m.**

Members Present:

- Mr. Tom Richards, Chair
- Ms. Nancy Miller, Vice-Chair
- Mr. Ernest Camacho
- Mr. Henry Perea
- Ms. Lynn Schenk
- Ms. Martha Escutia
- Mr. James Ghielmetti
- Ms. Margaret Pena
- Mr. Anthony Williams
- The Honorable Dr. Joaquin Arambula, Ex Officio

Members Absent:

- The Honorable Lena Gonzalez

**Public Comment**

An opportunity for public comment was made at the outset of the meeting on agenda and non-agenda items other than agenda items 2, 8, 9, 10, and 11.

**Agenda Item #2 – Staff Presentation on the Burbank to Los Angeles Project Section Final EIR/EIS and Proposed Selection of the Preferred Alternative (HSR Build Alternative with an underground Burbank Airport Station, a modified Los Angeles Union Station and two new electrified tracks) and Related Decisions**

Director of Environmental Services for the Authority, Serge Stanich, Southern California Regional Director for the Authority, LaDonna DiCamillo, and Southern California Project Manager for the Authority, Mark Chang, provided a presentation on the Burbank to Los Angeles Project Section Final EIR/EIS and Proposed Selection of the Preferred Alternative (HSR Build Alternative with an underground Burbank Airport Station, a modified Los Angeles Union Station and two new electrified tracks) and Related Decisions to the Board. The Following Questions were asked.

**Question**

Director Perea: Is the future infrastructure money from the Federal Government going to be used for this funding?

CEO Kelly: For the items that are listed most of them are commitments that are made out of the existing bond funds.

**Question**

Director Camacho: When you are talking about parks, does that include soccer fields and other sports fields?

**Answer**

Mr. Stanich: Yes, they are included.

**Question**

Chair Richards: Do we employ any type of 5G technology?

**Answer**

Mr. Stanich: We don't, we have conducted an analysis, I don't think 5G is available.

**Public Comment**

An opportunity for public comment on agenda items 2,8,9,10 and 11 was offered. Comments and recommended changes were given by the Public and the Board.

**Agenda Item #1 – Consider Approving the December 16, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes**

The December 16, 2021, meeting minutes were moved for approval by Director Camacho, seconded by Director Schenk and approved (9-0).

**Agenda Item #6 – CEO Report**

Chief Executive Officer for the Authority, Mr. Kelly, provided a report on the California High-Speed Rail Project Updates.

**Agenda Item #7– Finance and Audit Committee Report**

Finance & Audit Committee Chairman Tom Richards provided a brief status report on the Committee's work.

**Meeting Adjourned**

Chair Richards announced at 2:20 p.m. that the Board would adjourn until 2:00 p.m. on January 20, 2022.

**January 20, 2022**

**2:00 P.M.**

Members Present:

- Mr. Tom Richards, Chair
- Ms. Nancy Miller, Vice-Chair
- Mr. Ernest Camacho
- Mr. Henry Perea
- Ms. Lynn Schenk
- Ms. Martha Escutia
- Mr. James Ghielmetti
- Ms. Margaret Pena
- Mr. Anthony Williams

Members Absent:

- The Honorable Dr. Joaquin Arambula, Ex Officio
- The Honorable Lena Gonzalez

***At the outset of the January 20, 2022, Board of Directors meeting, Director Williams announced that he would recuse himself from Agenda item's 9,10, and 11 due to a conflict of interest.***

**Agenda Item #8– Brief Staff Response to Public Comment following Staff Presentation on Bakersfield to Los Angeles Final EIR/EIS and Proposed Decisions**

Director of Environmental Services for the Authority, Serge Stanich, provided a presentation on the public and staff recommended edits on the Burbank to Los Angeles Section Final EIR/EIS to the Board. The following questions were asked by the Board and answered by Mr. Stanich.

**Question**

Director Escutia: It was indicated that if necessary HSR would provide the additional water supply as needed, how do we plan to do that?

**Answer**

Mr. Stanich: If necessary, we will enter into an agreement to purchase supplementary water with metropolitan to provide the water as necessary during construction or a disturbance.

**Question**

Director Escutia: Is there a such thing as an amended EIR?

**Answer**

Mr. Stanich: Yes, the process allows for the EIR to be amended. Under CEQA it is called a recirculation, under NEPA it is called a supplemental.

**Question**

Director Escutia: I am assuming that this project will not move forward until right-of-way has been secured?

**Answer**

Mr. Stanich: That is correct.

**Question**

Director Camacho: The intersection we will be impacting, the multiple water distribution facilities that we will intersect, does this cover all of the facilities?

**Answer**

Mr. Stanich: The facilities are extraction and water supply wells; they are connected by a pipe that brings the extracted water to the City of Burbank and the City of Glendale's water treatment facility. We have conflicts with two extraction wells that we are proposing to relocate. There may be modifications that are needed with others, but we will not know that until we advance the design.

**Agenda Item #9– Consider certifying Burbank to Los Angeles Project Section Final EIR/EIS under the California Environmental Quality Act**

Deputy Attorney General for the California Department of Justice, Danae Aitchison, presented resolution 22-1 to the Board. No Questions were asked by the Board. The motion was moved for approval by Director Ghielmetti, seconded by Vice-Chair Miller and approved (8-0).

**Agenda Item #10– Consider Approving the Preferred Alternative (the HSR Build Alternative with the underground Burbank Airport Station, a modified Los Angeles Union Station, and two new electrified tracks) including associated**

**facilities, and the related California Environmental Quality Act Findings of Fact, Statement of Overriding Considerations, and Mitigation Monitoring and Enforcement Plan for the Burbank to Los Angeles Project Section**

Deputy Attorney General for the California Department of Justice, Danae Aitchison, presented resolution 22-02 to the Board. The motion was moved for approval by Director Schenk, seconded by Director Ghielmetti, and approved (8-0).

**Agenda Item #11– Consider selecting the Preferred Alternative (as defined in Item 10) and Directing the Chief Executive Officer to sign the Draft Record of Decision and to issue it as a Final Record of Decision for the Burbank to Los Angeles Project Section**

Environmental Counsel for the Authority Minming Wu Morri presented resolution 22-03 to the Board. The motion was moved for approval by Director Perea, seconded by Vice-Chair Miller, and approved (8-0).

**Question**

Director Escutia: Does the NEPA process allow for an amendment to the proposed decision if needed?

**Answer**

Ms. Wu Morri: Yes, it does allow for an amended ROD, it does not invalidate the current ROD.

**Meeting Adjourned**

Chair Richards announced at 3:06 P.M. that the Board would adjourn.