

California High-Speed Rail: San Jose to Merced Project Section Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement

Pursuant to:

California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Resources 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. § 4321 et seq.)
40 C.F.R. Parts 1500-1508, 64 Fed. Reg. 28545, 49 U.S.C. § 303 and 23 U.S.C. § 327

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Abstract: The *San Jose to Merced Project Section: Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement* was prepared as a joint document to meet all pertinent requirements of both the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Following NEPA assignment in July 2019, the California High-Speed Rail Authority has assumed the role of federal lead agency on the project. Specifically, the environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being or have been carried out by the State of California pursuant to 23 U.S.C § 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated July 23, 2019, and executed by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the State of California. Prior to the July 23, 2019 MOU, the FRA was the federal lead agency. Accordingly, and per the above, the Authority is both the CEQA and NEPA lead agency for this project. Volume 4 of this Final EIR/EIS considers all comments received during the comment period for the Draft EIR/EIS and Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS and provides responses to those comments.

This document considers, describes, and summarizes at a project level of analysis the environmental impacts of a proposed high-speed rail (HSR) system for intercity travel between San Jose and the Central Valley of California, that connects to the larger statewide HSR system. Four end-to-end project alternatives and a no project alternative are analyzed.

Impact Avoidance and Minimization Features, along with mitigation measures, are described to guide HSR environmental review to avoid or minimize potential impacts.