

## 9 PUBLIC AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

Pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority), as lead agency, has implemented a public and agency outreach program as part of the environmental review process. This chapter is generally organized chronologically, following the iterative alternative development and consideration process outlined in Section 2.5, Potential Alternatives Considered during Alternatives Screening Process. This chapter summarizes the public scoping process through the release of this Palmdale to Burbank Project Section Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The public and agency involvement program includes the following key efforts:

- Public Involvement and Outreach—Informational materials, including fact sheets; informational and scoping meetings, including town hall meetings, public and agency scoping meetings, meetings with individuals and groups, and presentations; and media briefings
- Agency Involvement—Agency scoping meetings, interagency working group, meetings with agency representatives, and other agency consultations
- Tribal Involvement—Meetings with tribal representatives, informational materials, including specific fact sheets on involvement and monitoring
- Publication—Notification and circulation of the Draft EIR/EIS

The Authority posts meeting notices and public documents on its website, [www.hsr.ca.gov](http://www.hsr.ca.gov). The website includes information about the California High-Speed Rail (HSR) System and the proposed route. It also houses the Authority's most recent biennial business plan, newsletters, press releases, Authority Board of Directors meeting summaries, recent developments in the design process of the project, status of the environmental review process, Authority contact information, and related links. Authority meetings are open to the public, and one of the first items on each meeting agenda offers an opportunity for public comments, questions, and discussion.

The Authority has posted this Draft EIR/EIS and technical appendices on its website. Materials on how to participate in the public comment period and how to navigate the document are also available online. Published notification materials include contact information in Arabic, Armenian, and Spanish. In addition, there is contact information for additional translation assistance in 33 other different languages.

Public and agency scoping conducted for the Palmdale to Burbank Project Section involved stakeholder and agency coordination as listed at the end of this chapter in Table 9-5. The scoping occurred from July 24, 2014, to December 14, 2014. While the Draft EIR/EIS was being prepared, the Authority held more than 240 individual and group meetings in the Palmdale to Burbank Project Section area. Frequently asked questions concerned impacts on property, sensitive plant and animal habitat, water and groundwater, community character, air quality, noise and vibration, traffic circulation, the alignment alternatives, station locations, environmental justice (EJ), and impacts on communities. Other concerns had to do with impacts of other alternatives not pursued and the status of changes that individuals and organizations had suggested. When possible, project staff answered these and other questions, but often the response was to refer them to the environmental analysis forthcoming in the Draft EIR/EIS. This included mention of opportunities for public comment on the document.

Because NEPA and CEQA require the environmental review process to consider public comments, these comments informed the preparation of this Draft EIR/EIS. This includes suggestions from individuals and organizations about the alternatives. When received, questions that could not be answered at public meetings were logged and HSR staff followed up with individuals and organizations; otherwise, items were noted for discussion at future public meetings as more specific information became available. Table 9-5, presented at the end of this chapter provides a comprehensive list of all meetings held as part of the Authority's public outreach for the Draft EIR/EIS.

Following the direction of U.S. Executive Order (USEO) 12898, and the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Order 5610.2C, the Authority promotes EJ Guidance into its programs, policies, and activities to avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects on minority and/or low-income populations. The Authority emphasizes the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people regardless of race, color, national origin, and income levels, from the early stages of project planning through design, construction, operations, and maintenance (USEO 12898 and USDOT Order 5610.2C are further discussed in Section 9.1).

The Authority conducted specific outreach efforts to low-income and minority populations. The purpose of this outreach was to increase the Authority's understanding of potential project effects upon these populations. EJ populations were identified using the following data from the U.S. Census Bureau: 2010 U.S. Census data, American Community Survey (ACS) 2009–2013 data for Palmdale, and ACS 2010–2014 data for the Central and Burbank Subsections. The *Palmdale to Burbank Project Section: Community Impact Assessment* (Authority 2019) contains a list of EJ-related interest groups that have been engaged through outreach efforts.<sup>1</sup>

The following sections describe the project's EJ outreach, public and agency scoping, alternatives analysis process, the additional outreach during the development of this Draft EIR/EIS, and the notification and circulation of this document. A complete log of the outreach activities is presented in Table 9-5 at the end of this chapter.

## 9.1 Environmental Justice Outreach

EJ is a topic rooted in Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin, including the denial of meaningful access for limited English proficiency persons, in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. Per the direction of USEO 12898, federal agencies developed guidelines to foster equitable outcomes for low-income and minority populations. The USDOT Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations (USDOT Order 5610.2C) applies to actions undertaken by the USDOT operating administrations, including the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), to implement USEO 12898, affirming the importance of considering EJ principles as part of early planning activities in order to avoid disproportionately high and adverse effects. The methodology used to identify low-income populations and minority populations also incorporates guidance from the Council on Environmental Quality, which has oversight of the federal government's compliance with USEO 12898 and NEPA (Council on Environmental Quality 1997) (for more information, refer to Chapter 5, Environmental Justice).

All the Authority's outreach efforts have been mindful of the need for an inclusive, sensitive approach. This has been accomplished through a range of efforts, starting with bilingual English-Spanish meeting flyers that also included information about how to access the meetings in additional languages. Legal notices and newspaper advertisements were published in ethnic media and are listed in Table 9-1.

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### *Environmental Justice*

Environmental justice addresses the United States Department of Transportation's goals to address the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

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<sup>1</sup> It is important to note that the Palmdale to Burbank Project Section traverses the Northeast San Fernando Valley, where nearly all communities are designated as EJ communities due to high levels of linguistic isolation and poverty. Refer to Chapter 5, Environmental Justice, for more information regarding these communities.

**Table 9-1 Ethnic Media Publications**

Publication Name	Language
<i>Asbarez News</i>	Armenian
<i>Asian Journal</i>	Tagalog
<i>Korea Daily</i>	Korean
<i>La Opinión</i>	Spanish
<i>Nguoi Viet-Daily</i>	Vietnamese
<i>San Fernando Valley El Sol</i>	Spanish
<i>Siamtownus</i>	Thai
<i>World Journal Chinese Daily News</i>	Chinese

All meeting notices and presentations were translated into Spanish due to the presence of large numbers of Spanish speakers in the region. Spanish interpreters and/or bilingual staff were available at all public meetings. In addition, interpreters were available at meetings in areas where at least 5 percent of residents used a specific language other than English. These included Japanese, Armenian, Eastern Armenian, Korean, Tagalog, Thai, Mandarin Chinese, and Vietnamese. Table 9-2 lists the meetings that included language interpreters.

**Table 9-2 Public Outreach Meetings with Language Interpreters**

Date	Location	Language of Interpreter
May 21, 2014	Downtown Los Angeles	Japanese
May 28, 2014	Burbank	Armenian
May 29, 2014	Palmdale	Spanish
June 5, 2014	Santa Clarita	Korean
August 5, 2014	Santa Clarita	Korean
August 6, 2014	Burbank	Eastern Armenian, Tagalog
August 7, 2014	Palmdale	Spanish
August 11, 2014	Acton/Agua Dulce	Spanish
August 12, 2014	Sylmar	Thai
August 14, 2014	Lake View Terrace	Thai
August 19, 2014	Downtown Los Angeles	Mandarin Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese
December 2, 2014	Santa Clarita	Korean
December 3, 2014	Lake View Terrace	Thai
December 4, 2014	Palmdale	Spanish
December 8, 2014	Burbank	Eastern Armenian, Tagalog

Date	Location	Language of Interpreter
December 9, 2014	San Fernando	Spanish
December 10, 2014	Sylmar	Thai
December 13, 2014	Acton / Agua Dulce	Spanish
May 18, 2015	Burbank	Armenian, Tagalog
May 30, 2015	Tujunga	Thai
June 1, 2015	Santa Clarita	Korean
August 8, 2016	Pacoima	Spanish
August 31, 2016	Lake View Terrace	Spanish
September 14, 2016	Palmdale	Spanish
September 17, 2016	Acton/Agua Dulce	Spanish
September 22, 2016	Sun Valley	Thai, Korean
September 24, 2018	Sunland	Armenian, Tagalog, Spanish
September 26, 2018	Pacoima	Thai, Spanish, Korean
September 27, 2018	Palmdale	Spanish
September 29, 2018	Acton / Agua Dulce	Spanish
October 22, 2020	Zoom Webinar	Spanish

On an ongoing basis, but particularly leading up to every series of meetings (especially the scoping meetings), the Authority conducted extensive outreach to elected offices, cities, and neighborhood councils to relay important information to their constituents, including those in EJ communities. This outreach occurred in advance of planned meetings and included briefings, mailings, and social media toolkits.

The Authority also hosted Community Working Groups (CWG) in 2015 and 2016 in EJ communities, including Sylmar, San Fernando, Pacoima, Sun Valley, Sunland, and Acton with Spanish interpreters (see Table 9-5 Public and Agency Meetings for meeting listings).<sup>2</sup> In addition to Neighborhood Council representatives from these areas, participants at these meetings included representatives of the organizations listed below. Because of the prevalence of the Spanish language in the region, ethnic community organizations participating in these meetings were mainly Spanish-language ethnic groups:

- Citizens Against Strip Mining in the San Fernando Valley (CASM-SFV)
- Communities Against Displacement/La Raza Unida
- El Nido Family Center
- Graffiti Busters
- Initiating Change in Our Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation (ICON CDC)
- Meet Each Need with Dignity (MEND)

#### *Community Working Groups*

CWGs are focus groups that generate concentrated discussions with each of the project corridor communities. Each CWG is designed to be small enough for constructive collaboration.

<sup>2</sup> The invitations, presentations, and fact sheets were all translated into Spanish for these meetings.

- Pacoima Beautiful
- Pacoima Bilingual
- San Fernando Valley Social Justice Coalition
- Sylmar Vista Del Valle
- Tia Chucha’s Centro Cultural
- Valley Care Community Consortium
- Voz del Barrio

Other community and EJ organizations invited to these CWG meetings include:

- El Proyecto del Barrio
- Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission
- La Tuna Canyon Community Association
- Lakeview Terrace Improvement Association
- Padres Pioneros
- Pueblo y Salud
- Sun Valley Beautiful
- Youth Speak Collective

For additional information and engagement summary about EJ outreach to low-income and minority populations and communities of concern, see Chapter 5, Environmental Justice. Table 9-5 lists the meetings held as part of the Authority’s outreach efforts, both during and after scoping.

## 9.2 Public and Agency Scoping

Public and agency scoping is an important element in the process of determining the focus and content of an EIR/EIS. It provides an opportunity for public involvement and helps identify the range of actions, alternatives, environmental effects, and mitigation measures to be analyzed. Public and agency scoping helps focus detailed study on those issues pertinent to consideration of the proposed Palmdale to Burbank Project Section Build Alternatives and certification of the Final EIR/EIS. As described below, the Authority conducted scoping meetings for the Palmdale to Burbank Project Section Draft EIR/EIS in August 2014 and additional outreach in December 2014.

The Palmdale to Burbank Project Section Draft EIR/EIS evolved from preliminary analysis of the Palmdale to Los Angeles Section, which had been identified in the *Final Program EIR/EIS for the Proposed California High-Speed Train System* (Authority and FRA 2005). In February 2007, the Authority and FRA began a project-level environmental review of the Palmdale to Los Angeles Project Section, proceeding with formal scoping meetings between March and April 2007. Due to the relatively wide expanse of the original corridor, which included both the State Route (SR) 14 freeway and Union Pacific Railroad alignments between the Antelope Valley and Santa Clarita, the Authority proposed to divide the corridor into two project sections: Palmdale to Burbank and Burbank to Los Angeles. Separate Notices of Preparation (NOP) and Notices of Intent (NOI) were issued for each of these proposed project sections in 2014. The design of the new project sections considered public input received during the scoping process for the Palmdale to Los Angeles Section.

### 9.2.1 Notices of Preparation, Notices of Intent, and Public Information Materials

The Authority issued a NOP (State Clearinghouse number 2014071074) on July 24, 2014, initiating public scoping for the *Palmdale to Burbank Project Section Draft EIR/EIS*. The NOP was distributed to the State Clearinghouse, elected officials, local, regional, and state agencies, and interested public stakeholders. The FRA published the NOI in the *Federal Register* on July 24, 2014.

The Authority and FRA encouraged broad participation in the Draft EIR/EIS scoping process, inviting comments and suggestions from all interested agencies and members of the public to

ensure identification of the full range of environmental issues related to the project. A comprehensive database containing all comments received during the project development process was kept by the Authority and regularly used during the development of alternatives to facilitate the review of stakeholder issues in conjunction with the review of project objectives and environmental resources.

In the Draft EIR/EIS NOP/NOI, public agencies with jurisdiction over the project were requested to advise the Authority and the FRA of the applicable permit and environmental review requirements of each agency, and the scope of content of the environmental information relevant to the agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the project.

## 9.2.2 Public Scoping Meetings

The Authority and FRA received comments during scoping meetings held in August 2014 and open house meetings in December 2014.<sup>3</sup> As part of public outreach for the Draft EIR/EIS, seven public and agency scoping meetings were held between August 5, 2014, and August 19, 2014, in Santa Clarita, Burbank, Palmdale, Acton/Agua Dulce, Sylmar, Lake View Terrace, and downtown Los Angeles. These meetings introduced the split of the alignment between Bakersfield to Palmdale and Palmdale to Burbank. Seven additional follow-up meetings were conducted between December 2, 2014, and December 14, 2014, in Santa Clarita, Sun Valley, Palmdale, Burbank, San Fernando, Sylmar, and Acton. The additional meetings introduced the potential for alignments to traverse the Angeles National Forest (ANF).

### 9.2.2.1 August 2014 Meetings

All of the August 2014 public scoping meetings were held between 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. to maximize attendance. The format of the scoping meetings was an open house, which allowed people to arrive at any time to obtain information and provide input. Agendas for open house meetings, fact sheets, and comment sheets were distributed at the scoping meetings. The comments received at the meetings are summarized in Section 9.2.4 and in the *Palmdale to Burbank Section 2014 Scoping Report* (Authority 2014). More than 80,000 property owners, residents, and business tenants within a designated mailing area<sup>4</sup> were mailed bilingual English-Spanish notices of the public scoping meetings. The direct mail recipients were members of the public identified as stakeholders, affected property owners, and those who previously attended meetings or submitted comments and questions. Local newspapers (including ethnic media in seven languages other than English) published advertisements of the meetings, and local media outlets received press releases.

An electronic public scoping notice was emailed to more than 5,300 contacts included in the project stakeholder database. The electronic public scoping notice was also featured on the Authority's website and shared with local cities, agencies, elected officials, and key stakeholder groups for posting on their respective websites and to share via their web blasts and social media platforms.

Approximately 916 people participated in the seven public scoping meetings hosted in August 2014. The places and dates of the public and agency scoping meetings are listed below in Table 9-3.

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<sup>3</sup> In response to a number of stakeholder requests, the original comment submittal deadline was extended from August 31, 2014, to September 12, 2014.

<sup>4</sup> The mailing area included a 500-foot buffer from the proposed alignments, a quarter-mile buffer around proposed stations, and the entire area comprised by the Alternative Corridor limits as was delineated in the NOP with no additional buffer.

**Table 9-3 August 2014 Meetings**

Meeting Location	Date
Santa Clarita, William S. Hart Regional Park	August 5, 2014
Burbank, Buena Vista Branch Library	August 6, 2014
Palmdale, Chimbole Cultural Center	August 7, 2014
Acton/Agua Dulce, Acton-Agua Dulce Library	August 11, 2014
Sylmar, Sylmar Public Library	August 14, 2014
Lake View Terrace, Lake View Terrace Recreation Center	August 14, 2014
Downtown Los Angeles, Los Angeles Union Station, Fred Harvey Room	August 19, 2014

In addition to these formal scoping meetings, public input on the scope of the environmental review was sought through other means, including presentations, briefings, and workshops. Briefings were conducted with elected officials, local city officials and neighborhood councils, and local businesses and organizations. Table 9-5 lists the meetings held as part of this outreach effort, in addition to non-scoping meetings. Bilingual English/Spanish comment cards were distributed at meetings with the option to be mailed, email notifications were sent alerting stakeholders of the opening of the public comment period, and a press release was issued to encourage participation and public comments at the public hearings.

### 9.2.2.2 December 2014 Meetings

Following the August 2014 public scoping meetings, seven additional open house meetings were conducted as follow-up public involvement in December 2014. The purpose of these meetings was to introduce elements of the project, identify alternatives proposed for evaluation, share the project development progress and schedule, and solicit additional public input. The meetings were used to present new information on the Draft EIR/EIS alternative alignments and new proposed alternative alignments through the ANF.

Consistent with the Authority's prior outreach programs to inform and engage stakeholders, a variety of noticing methods were used in advance of the seven December 2014 open house meetings. Methods included mailing of notices in English and Spanish to more than 54,000 separate addresses, including people on the project stakeholder database, and other property owners, residents, and business tenants within a 500-foot buffer around the proposed alternative alignments and within a 0.25-mile buffer around stations.

Flyers for the open house meetings were distributed to offices of representative elected officials, libraries, community centers, city halls, senior centers, and other public facilities. Electronic versions of the flyer were distributed via email to about 6,000 contacts included in the project stakeholder database. Advertisements in local newspapers were published for communities along the Palmdale to Burbank Project Section, including ethnic newspapers reflective of the geographic scope of the project section during this time. Briefings were held in advance of meetings for representative elected officials, cities, and town/neighborhood councils. Stakeholder organizations were notified of the upcoming open house meetings and were asked to help share the meeting information with their constituents. Media coverage also took place during and after the meetings. The comments received at the meetings are summarized in Section 9.2.4 and in the *Palmdale to Burbank Section 2014 Scoping Report* (Authority 2014).

Nearly 1,000 people attended the seven December 2014 open house meetings, which were hosted at the locations listed in Table 9-4.

**Table 9-4 December 2014 Meetings**

Meeting Location	Date
Santa Clarita, Santa Clarita Activities Center	December 2, 2014
Shadow Hills/Lake View Terrace/Foothill Communities, Stonehurst Recreation Center	December 3, 2014
Palmdale, Chimbole Cultural Center	December 4, 2014
Burbank, Buena Vista Branch Library	December 8, 2014
San Fernando, Las Palmas Community Center	December 9, 2014
Sylmar, Olive Vista Middle School	December 10, 2014
Acton/Agua Dulce, High Desert School	December 13, 2014

Source: California High Speed Rail Palmdale to Burbank Open House Meetings Summary Report, Authority 2014

### 9.2.3 Agency Scoping

In addition to scoping meetings held in 2014, one-on-one follow-up meetings were held with federal agencies to keep them informed of project progress, including the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS), and United States Forest Service (USFS). Federal cooperating agencies for the NEPA EIS are the Surface Transportation Board, USACE, USFS, and the Bureau of Land Management. The agency meetings were held during the same period as the December 2014 scoping meetings. More information regarding agency scoping can be found in the *Palmdale to Burbank Project Section 2014 Scoping Report* (Authority 2014).

In September 2019, the Authority invited the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to serve as a cooperating agency under NEPA for the Palmdale to Burbank Project Section. Since then, the Authority held meetings with FAA staff in November 2020, January, and April of 2021 to discuss FAA participation as a cooperating agency.

### 9.2.4 Scoping Comments

The public and agency comments received through the scoping meetings held in August and December of 2014 helped to identify general environmental issues to be addressed in the *Palmdale to Burbank Project Section Draft EIR/EIS*. The comments also identified questions about the proposed alignments and stations, suggestions for new or modified alignments and stations, and other potential concerns related to the project.

Throughout the scoping process, the Authority received 928 comment submittals, which contained approximately 5,520 individual comments from agencies, organizations, and individuals. These comment submittals included comment forms submitted at the scoping meetings, comment forms that were mailed in, letters, emails, and telephone calls.

The comments received covered a wide variety of topics. Many commenters inquired about impacts on the mobility of low-income or minority populations. Others wanted to see a full analysis and comparison of short-and long-term impacts on resources between the proposed alternatives in the Draft EIR/EIS. A few commenters requested a description of the proposed HSR alternatives near Hollywood Burbank Airport and expressed concern regarding the proposed alignments complying with Federal Aviation Administration regulations. Commenters also proposed new alignments or alterations to the proposed alignments. Other issues mentioned in scoping comments included the following:

- Air quality and global climate change impacts
- Use of clean, renewable electricity
- Impacts on domestic and wild animals
- Concerns over impacts on the ANF



- Impacts on parks and other open spaces
- Potential negative effects on archaeological sites
- Concerns regarding project impacts on growth and communities
- Impacts on community character
- Identification of electromagnetic interference/fields impacts
- Impacts on biological resources and wetlands
- Impacts of tunneling on hydrology
- Impacts on oil fields and wells
- Negative visual impacts
- Noise and vibration evaluations impacts
- Responses to the NOP/NOI
- Risk of seismic activities
- Safety and security issues
- Station area access issues
- Station relocation
- Using existing travel routes, causing roadway impacts during construction

### 9.3 Alternatives Analysis Process

Between 2010 and 2016, the Authority completed six alternative analysis reports that initially addressed the Palmdale to Los Angeles Project Section and later the Palmdale to Burbank Project Section. During the alternatives analysis process, the Authority continued ongoing efforts to engage the public and public agencies. Outreach to the public involved at-large public meetings and CWGs. Outreach to public agencies involved meetings with federal and state agencies, including the USEPA, USACE, the California State Water Resources Control Board, and the California Air Resources Board.

The alternative analysis reports provided information to the public regarding the alternatives analysis process, the initial range of alternatives considered, and the criteria for evaluating those alternatives. The purpose of this process was to identify a reasonable range of alternatives for detailed study by defining feasible station and alignment configurations that would meet the HSR project purpose and the objectives of stakeholder agencies. Public information meetings were held during the alternatives analysis process to inform the public about the Draft EIR/EIS alternative recommendations.

#### 9.3.1 Scoping and Identifying Potential Alternative Alignments

As mentioned in Section 9.2.2.1, the Authority initiated project-level environmental review and formal scoping meetings, ultimately completing the *Palmdale to Los Angeles Section EIR/EIS Scoping Report* in June 2007. Following the publication of the scoping report, the Authority prepared four Supplemental Alternative Analyses (SAA):

- The July 2010 Preliminary Alternative Analysis assessed the Palmdale to Los Angeles Project Section and evaluated potential alternatives, platform locations, and design options for Los Angeles Union Station (LAUS)
- The March 2011 SAA reevaluated the Palmdale to Los Angeles Section Project from Sylmar to LAUS
- The April 2012 SAA focused solely on the Palmdale to Sylmar area
- The May 2014 SAA reevaluated all proposed alternatives and station options

After the May 2014 SAA, the Authority proposed to divide the corridor into two project sections: Palmdale to Burbank and Burbank to Los Angeles. This action to divide the corridor was due to the wide expanse of the corridor that included both the SR 14 freeway and Union Pacific Railroad alignments between the Antelope Valley and Santa Clarita. New NOPs and NOIs were issued for each of the new proposed project sections on July 24, 2014.

### 9.3.1.1 *Palmdale to Burbank Project Section*

Subsequent to splitting the corridor into the Palmdale to Burbank and Burbank to Los Angeles Project Sections, two SAAs were prepared between 2015 and 2016.

- The June 2015 SAA introduced refinements to rail alignments along the SR 14 corridor as well as several East Corridor alignments<sup>5</sup>
- The April 2016 SAA evaluated additional refinements to rail alignments and HSR station alternatives

These two studies refined the potential alignment alternatives, Maintenance Facility sites, and station options, and they considered the public and agency comments received during the August and December 2014 scoping meetings.

The final SAA, the *Palmdale to Burbank Project Section Supplemental Alternatives Analysis* (Authority 2016), made recommendations to eliminate some of alignment alternatives and station options, while identifying the Build Alternatives to be evaluated in this Draft EIR/EIS.

The 2016 SAA considered three station options in Burbank: Option A, which featured mostly at-grade and above-grade facilities within the city of Burbank and the Sun Valley community; Option B, which featured both at-grade and underground facilities within the city of Burbank; and Option C, which featured both at-grade and underground facilities aligned in a north-south orientation parallel to North Hollywood Way, within the city of Burbank. The engineering within the Palmdale to Burbank Project Section was advanced sufficiently to make it practical for the proposed Palmdale to Burbank alignment alternatives to connect to either Burbank Airport Station Platform Configuration Option A or Option B. In 2018, the Authority withdrew Option A based on the Burbank Airport Station Option Screening Report (Authority 2018), primarily due to community and potential environmental justice concerns. Option A had the greatest amount of residential and business displacements and noise/vibration and visual impacts, and it also had the worst intermodal connections. Station Option B was carried forward as part of the Build Alternatives, and then further refined to minimize impacts. Option B Refined was designed to locate the platforms closer to the future location of the Hollywood Burbank Airport terminal, reduce the station depth, improve constructability, reduce commercial and industrial property takes, and eliminate the tunnel length underneath residential neighborhoods to the south.

### 9.3.2 **Public Information Meetings during the Alternatives Analysis Process**

As part of the alternatives analysis process, the Authority undertook a comprehensive community and stakeholder engagement program in the Palmdale to Burbank Project Section in 2015 and early 2016. Throughout this period, the Authority gathered feedback regarding the technical aspects of the proposed project alignments and station options, along with general questions regarding the statewide and section-specific alternatives analysis process. Outreach included, but was not limited to, at-large public meetings, CWGs, and briefings. This outreach is described in more detail in the sections that follow. These meetings are listed in Table 9-5 at the end of the chapter.

#### 9.3.2.1 ***At-Large Public Meetings***

The at-large public meetings were community open house meetings held for broad participation in the alternatives analysis process from all corridor communities and members of the public. Various meeting formats, such as open houses, formal presentations, and question and comment sessions, provided opportunities for participant input. These public meetings also included detailed information displays outlining the development and refinement of the proposed alignments. The Authority posted project information and announcements on its website.

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<sup>5</sup> Refer to Chapter 2, Alternatives, for more information on the East Corridor alignments and other alignments considered in the alternatives analysis process.

### **9.3.2.2 Community Working Groups**

The purpose of the CWGs was to provide a forum for integrating local input into the Draft EIR/EIS alternatives analysis process. The CWGs functioned as focus groups further discussing the feedback generated at the at-large meetings through concentrated discussions with each of the project corridor communities. The CWG participants' role was to represent the interests of a jurisdiction, facility, service, agency, or organization. The CWG was locally oriented in scope and influence in relation to a defined portion of the project corridor. CWGs were not a formal voting body but were organized to enhance local input into the planning process.

Participation in CWG meetings was by invitation through recommendation from the Authority or the management of the jurisdictions, facilities, institutions, agencies, and organizations represented in the project corridor. Research into local community groups and review of Authority meeting attendees who expressed interest in the project also informed creation of CWGs. Each group consisted of approximately 30 members, which allowed the CWGs to remain small enough for constructive discussion. Participants included those who were conversant in specific interests, such as planning, mobility, access, economic development, safety, and security. The typical format for the CWG meetings consisted of a presentation, open discussions, and interactive exercises to gather feedback from participants.

As part of this effort, there was a focus on the EJ communities in the Northeast San Fernando Valley. CWG members provided important insight and feedback from their local communities to the Authority prior to and during the preparation of the SAAs and served as vital partners for disseminating information about the project and public meetings to their constituencies. Two of the CWG meetings in 2015 were conducted entirely in Spanish by bilingual Authority and consultant staff to facilitate involvement and feedback from Spanish speakers.

### **9.3.2.3 Briefings**

In addition to the public information meetings, the Authority hosted one-on-one briefings and small group meetings throughout the alternatives analysis process. This effort provided updates and presentations to clubs, organizations, and business owners within: Los Angeles County; the cities of Santa Clarita, San Fernando, Los Angeles, Burbank, and Palmdale; and to the communities of Acton/Agua Dulce, Sylmar, Lake View Terrace, Pacoima, Sun Valley, and Shadow Hills. The objectives of these meetings included facilitating an inclusive and transparent process.

### **9.3.2.4 Summary of Feedback**

The Authority received comments on a broad range of topics from the at-large public meetings, CWGs, and briefings held during the alternatives analysis process. Common comments included: concern about impacts of proposed alternatives on EJ communities; the use of clean, renewable electricity to operate the project; the HSR route passing through private properties; impacts on community character; and impacts on domestic and wild animals.

## **9.3.3 Environmental Resource Agency Meetings during the Alternatives Analysis Process**

The Authority and the FRA worked closely with federal and state resource agencies on an ongoing basis during the alternatives analysis process.

One-on-one and/or group meetings were held with federal agencies (including USEPA, USACE, USFWS, and USFS) to keep them informed of project progress. In particular, the Authority regularly engaged the USFS regarding NEPA compliance and matters related to the Special Use Authorization process that the Authority would need to engage in to obtain USFS authorization to construct and operate the HSR within the ANF, including areas of the San Gabriel Mountain National Monument (SGMNM). Meetings with USFS covered such topics as the details of the Build Alternatives, methods and approaches regarding tunnel construction, new requirements associated with the designation of parts of the ANF as a national monument, and resources of particular sensitivity including biological, aquatic, and cultural resources. For a more detailed

information regarding issues raised by the various agencies please see *Palmdale to Burbank Project Section Supplemental Alternatives Analysis* (Authority 2016).

Additionally, several state agencies were engaged in the alternatives analysis process and worked in conjunction with the Authority to identify and protect resources of concern, such as aquatic resources, threatened endangered species, and potential historic resources. Some of the key state agencies included the following:

- California State Water Resources Control Board
- California Air Resources Board
- California Department of Toxic Substance Control
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- California State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- California Department of Transportation

### **9.3.4 Una Lake Avoidance Alternative Process**

Building on the Alternatives Analysis process and consultation with the USACE and the USEPA, the Authority explored additional refinements to the alternatives in 2020 to avoid or minimize impacts on special aquatic resources. In particular, these efforts considered refinements to the alternatives near Una Lake. As a result of this process, the Authority developed the SR14A, E1A, and E2A Build Alternatives. Additional information regarding the discussion of Build Alternatives SR14A, E1A, and E2A can be found in the Checkpoint B Summary Report (Authority 2020a). These new Build Alternatives received agency concurrence letters from USACE and USEPA on July 30, 2020.<sup>6</sup> For further information regarding the Una Lake Avoidance Alternative process, refer to Chapter 2, Alternatives.

## **9.4 Development of the Draft EIR/EIS**

Throughout the development of the Draft EIR/EIS, the Authority and FRA continued to hold meetings to consult with federal, state, and local agencies and to provide project updates and obtain additional feedback from the public and stakeholders. The public and agency outreach associated with the Draft EIR/EIS continues to include public discussion of the preferred alternative. The following subsections provide details of these activities.

### **9.4.1 Outreach, Involvement, and Communications Guidance**

The Authority and FRA held informal and formal public meetings to help inform the Draft EIR/EIS preparation process. The meetings consisted of open houses, formal presentations, and question and answer sessions. Project information and meeting announcements were posted on the Authority's website. Table 9-5 lists the dates of public meetings that occurred during the development of the Draft EIR/EIS since summer of 2016.

#### **9.4.1.1 Open House Meetings**

The Palmdale to Burbank open house meetings were a primary platform by which the Authority announced its latest project information to the public-at-large during the development of the Draft EIR/EIS. Alternatives analysis open house meetings were held in September 2016 in Palmdale, Acton/Agua Dulce, and the Northeast San Fernando Valley. Similar to the CWG, the September 2016 alternatives analysis open house meetings were not a formal voting body and were locally oriented to the corridor to enhance local input into the HSR planning process.

The public was informed of the open house meetings and invited to attend through general meeting notices, flyers, and local newspaper advertisements. The format for the alternatives analysis open house meetings included large screen PowerPoint presentations looped at each individual station, a

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<sup>6</sup> Checkpoint B considers additional information developed subsequent to programmatic analyses of alternatives. This information is used to inform the selection of a reasonable range of alternatives for consideration in the Tier 2 environmental review. For further discussion of Checkpoint B, see Section 9.4.2.

formal 45-minute presentation, and a question-and-answer session. The timeframe was approximately three hours with 50 to 100 attendees per meeting.

The main comment topic highlighted at the open house meeting by participants was to increase the length of tunneling used within the alignment to reduce community impacts and increase land preservation. Another focus among the attendees was environmental issues, such as water wells and water resources, air emissions, and noise pollution.

### 9.4.1.2 Community and Stakeholder Working Groups

During development of the Draft EIR/EIS, additional CWGs were formed through the same process as the CWGs described in Section 9.2.2.1, Community Working Groups. CWG and SWG meetings and open house meetings were conducted to engage local residents in the project area on an ongoing basis. The Palmdale to Burbank CWG and SWG meetings were held in August 2016. These meetings took place in Sun Valley/Pacoima, Santa Clarita, Acton/Agua Dulce, and northeast San Fernando Valley. The meetings provided a forum for integrating local input to the Draft EIR/EIS.

#### *Stakeholder Working Groups (SWGs)*

SWGs are locally oriented in scope and influence in relation to a defined portion of the corridor. SWGs provide a forum for integrating local input into the Palmdale to Burbank Project Section. The participant's role is to represent the interests of a jurisdiction, facility, service, agency, or organization and to serve as a liaison of these interests.

Participation in the SWG meetings was through recommendation by the Authority. This group encompassed leaders from various constituents near the HSR corridor, including those conversant in land use, transportation, environmental sustainability, and societal topics within the region. Information gathered during these meetings was collected by staff who were present at the meetings.

The input from CWG and SWG participants was far-ranging and specific to their local area. Most were very concerned about experiencing impacts on their community. The main areas of concern addressed by attendees during the CWG and SWG meetings focused on property acquisition impacts, residential and commercial displacement, effects on property values, equestrian impacts, and preserving land. Another focus among the stakeholders was on environmental topics, such as clean air and reducing waste.

### 9.4.1.3 Technical Working Group Meetings

Several Technical Working Group meetings were held for the Draft EIR/EIS. For a list of Technical Working Group meetings, see Table 9-5. Additionally, community leaders with technical expertise, including land use, transportation, and environmental sustainability, were included in the SWG meetings, as described in Section 9.4.1.2, Community/Stakeholder Working Groups.

## 9.4.2 Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding

The Authority has several agreements and memorandum of understandings (MOU) in place for the HSR system that are applicable to the Palmdale to Burbank Project Section. The 2011 MOU for Achieving an Environmentally Sustainable High-Speed Train System for California establishes a framework under which the signatory agencies committed to working together to achieve an environmentally sustainable HSR system, including the Palmdale to Burbank Project Section (Authority 2011a). Signatories include the Authority, FRA, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Federal Transit Administration, and the USEPA. This MOU defines common goals, identifies key areas for collaboration, and defines expectations and terms for signatory agencies. Consistent with the MOU, the Authority recognizes the need to build the project using sustainable methods that accomplish the following goals:

- Promote sustainable housing and development patterns
- Integrate station access and amenities into the fabric of surrounding neighborhoods

- Stimulate multimodal connectivity and increase options for affordable, convenient access to goods, services, and employment
- Reduce passenger transportation emissions across California, thereby reducing associated environmental and health impacts
- Promote energy efficiency and renewable energy
- Encourage best practices for water efficiency and conservation
- Protect ecologically sensitive and agricultural lands

### 9.4.3 Public Information Materials and Meetings

The Authority hosted public information meetings during preparation of the EIR/EIS to inform the public about the alternatives analysis recommendations for the Palmdale to Burbank Project Section and the status of the Draft EIR/EIS preparation. In addition, these meetings provided information on various HSR project components and served as forums for obtaining feedback. The public information meetings included presentations and project information materials (on display and in fact sheets). Meetings were announced through direct mail to those on the project mailing database, advertisements in local newspapers, and postings on the Authority's website ([www.hsr.ca.gov](http://www.hsr.ca.gov)). Various publications and materials were made available on this website. Additionally, the Authority participated in public meetings hosted by other agencies to provide project information and obtain feedback. The places and dates of these meetings are listed in Table 9-5.

### 9.4.4 Tribal Coordination Meetings

Under NEPA Assignment, the Authority is required to fulfill the requirements of Section 106 (36 C.F.R. Part 800) pursuant to the NHPA (see Section 9.4.6) Section 106 Programmatic Agreement and the NEPA Assignment MOU. See Chapter 3, Section 3.17 Cultural Resources, for a detailed discussion of NEPA Assignment. The FRA is responsible for conducting government-to-government consultation with federally recognized Native American tribes. This includes preparing a memorandum of agreement for each project section that adversely affects, or has the potential to adversely affect, historic properties and participating in the resolution of disputes. The FRA delegated responsibility to the Authority for implementation of the following provisions of the agreement: consult with non-federally recognized Native American groups, other consulting parties, and the public; conduct Section 106 reviews; and coordinate with Native American groups and other interested parties to participate in each undertaking MOU. For a full list of responsibilities, refer to the Section 106 PA (Authority et al. 2011).<sup>7</sup>

As part of the cultural resource investigation efforts conducted under Section 106, FRA and the Authority consulted with federally recognized Native American tribes. Tribal input is sought early in the project planning process to obtain their input on concerns for tribal heritage resources potentially affected by the project. Concerns were accounted for early in project planning. Outreach and consultation with tribal stakeholders occurred and will continue to occur at key milestones throughout the project delivery process.

FRA initiated project-level government-to-government outreach in 2009 and 2010 for the Palmdale to Los Angeles Project Section. The NAHC provided the Authority with a list of Native American tribes and representatives on September 10, 2009; October 26, 2011; February 9, 2014; and March 3, 2014. In July 2014, the Palmdale to Burbank Project Section was established. The NAHC provided the Authority with a list of Native American tribes and representatives on August 11, 2014; February 9, 2015; and July 16, 2018. The following tribes and tribal representatives identified for the Palmdale to Burbank Project Section were contacted

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<sup>7</sup> Pursuant to the NEPA Assignment MOU between FRA and the State of California executed on July 23, 2019, the Authority has assumed the FRA's responsibilities for complying with the requirements of Section 106. However, under the NEPA Assignment MOU, the FRA retains the responsibility to conduct formal government-to-government consultations.

to provide them with information and updates about the project section and to seek tribal input regarding any concerns about potential effects on important tribal cultural resources:

- Richard Angulo (Chumash; no tribe affiliation)
- Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians
- Beverly Salazar Folkes (Chumash, Tataviam, Fernandeño; no tribe affiliation)
- Carol A. Pulido (Chumash; no tribe affiliation)
- Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation
- Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
- Frank Arredondo (Chumash; no tribe affiliation)
- Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians Kizh Nation
- Gabrieleño/Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council
- Gabrieleño/Tongva Nation
- Gabrieleño/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
- Gabrieleño Tribe
- Kern Valley Indian Council
- Kitanemuk and Yowlumne Tejon Indians
- Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission
- Melissa M. Parra-Hernandez (Chumash; no tribe affiliation)
- Owl Clan
- Peu Yoko Perez (Chumash; no tribe affiliation)
- Randy Guzman-Folkes (Chumash, Fernandeño, Tataviam, Shoshone Paiute, Yaqui; no tribe affiliation)
- San Fernando Band of Mission Indians
- San Luis Obispo County Chumash Council
- San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
- Santa Ynez Tribal Elders Council
- Tongva Ancestral Territorial Tribal Nation

Of the 25 tribes invited, thirteen representatives of the following six tribes attended the meetings:

- Gabrieleño/Tongva Nation
- Tongva Ancestral Territorial Tribal Nation
- Randy Guzman Folkes (Chumash/Tataviam)
- Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
- San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
- Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians Kizh Nation

Tribal representatives from the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians Kizh Nation and the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians have not only consulted with the Authority, but also have participated in the archaeological surveys completed on Bureau of Land Management and ANF lands for the Palmdale to Burbank Project Section. Representatives from all four of the tribal consulting parties will continue to participate in all surveys once access is granted. Tribal representatives from the consulting parties will also monitor activities during construction in archaeologically sensitive areas associated with the Palmdale to Burbank Project Section.

In January 2017, the Authority hosted a chartered bus tour of the Palmdale to Burbank Project Section specifically for the consulting party tribes. The intent of the tour was to provide the tribal stakeholders an opportunity to view the landscape in which the Build Alternatives are proposed and to learn more about the proposed engineering features for each of the Build Alternatives. Map-books of the alignments were provided to help orient the participants during the tour, and stops were made at key locations along each of the routes. The tour included 27 participants, including representatives from each of the consulting tribes, representatives from FRA, the Authority, the Regional Consultant team, and archaeologists with the USFS. Following the alignment tour, the Authority and FRA held follow-up focused meetings with each of the consulting tribes in March 2017 to seek further input regarding cultural resource concerns along

the alignments and to collaborate on strategies to avoid and minimize effects on tribal cultural resources. Consultation with tribal stakeholders regarding the Palmdale to Burbank Project Section is ongoing and iterative.

The Authority and FRA is engaged in ongoing meetings with the tribal consulting parties. As consulting parties, the tribes are afforded a chance to review and contribute to cultural resources technical reports; participate in tribal monitoring opportunities (including monitoring required during pedestrian archaeological field surveys and ground disturbing construction activities in culturally sensitive areas); and contribute to the development of treatment and mitigation for potential impacts on significant resources. Meetings with tribal representatives are included in Table 9-5. A more detailed discussion of tribal outreach and consultation efforts, and the findings of the cultural resources investigation for this project section, is provided in Section 3.17, Cultural Resources.

#### **9.4.5 Agency Meetings and Consultation**

The Authority and FRA consulted with cooperating or participating federal, state, and local agencies under NEPA and with trustee and responsible agencies under CEQA regarding specific resource issues. Interested state, federal, and local agencies were also consulted throughout the project development process. The Authority and FRA have met with federal agencies numerous times. Local agencies hosted and facilitated meetings with the public, organizations, and members of the press. The agencies that the Authority and FRA met with include the following:

##### **Federal Agencies**

- Bureau of Land Management
- FAA
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- USEPA
- USACE
- USFWS
- USFS

Responsible agencies under CEQA are defined in Public Resources Code 21069 as “any public agency, other than the lead agency, which has responsibility for carrying out or approving a project.” Responsible agencies under CEQA for the Palmdale to Burbank Project Section include, the following state, and local agencies:

##### **State Agencies**

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California Department of Transportation
- California Department of Water Resources
- California Public Utilities Commission
- California State Lands Commission
- State Water Resources Control Board
- Regional Water Quality Control Boards
- California State Historic Preservation Officer

##### **Local Agencies**

- South Coast Air Quality Management District
- Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District
- Los Angeles County Flood Control District
- Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority
- City of Burbank
- City of Los Angeles (including numerous departments and neighborhood councils)



- City of Palmdale
- City of Santa Clarita
- Los Angeles County

**Transportation Agencies**

- Antelope Valley Transit Authority
- Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro)
- Metrolink (Southern California Regional Rail Authority)
- Mission City Transit
- Los Angeles Department of Transportation
- Los Angeles Public Works Department
- Santa Clarita Transit

Chapter 2, Alternatives provide a list of responsible agencies and permitting procedures. Table 9-5 provides a full list of the various agency meetings.

**9.4.6 Section 106 Consultation, National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)**

The Authority and FRA executed the NHPA Section 106 PA in June 2011 (Authority 2011b). The Section 106 PA provides an overall framework for conducting the Section 106 process for this project section and includes interested party and tribal consultations. In compliance with the NHPA, the Authority and FRA invited consulting parties (including other federal, state, regional, or local agencies that may have responsibilities for historic properties) to review project historic resource reports and findings.

In accordance with Stipulation V.A of the Section 106 PA, outreach and consultation with potentially interested parties, including the general public; historic preservation interest groups or individuals; and other federal, state, regional, or local agencies regarding potential effects on historic properties entirely in Los Angeles County. Eight responses from interested parties were received, including the California SHPO, which designated the FRA as lead federal agency for Section 106 on September 2, 2015. While the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation is the overseeing agency for Section 106, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation did not need to be involved in the consultation and outreach process. For additional historic preservation interest groups or individuals contacted, see Table 3.17-3, in Section 3.17, Cultural Resources.

**9.4.7 Section 404 Process, Clean Water Act**

In December 2010, the Authority, FRA, USEPA, and the USACE signed a Tier 2 MOU to facilitate coordination between the environmental review process under NEPA and the regulatory authorization processes of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (33 U.S.C. 408). The MOU establishes a process under which the four agencies reach agreement on three milestones for each project section. These three milestones are as follows:

- **Checkpoint A: Purpose and Need**—In December 2014, the Authority and FRA submitted a Purpose and Need Statement to the USACE and USEPA pursuant to the MOU’s Checkpoint A provisions. Both agencies provided written concurrence with the Purpose and Need Statement (respectively, on December 18 and 29, 2014).
- **Checkpoint B: Range of Alternatives** —The MOU establishes that Checkpoint B consider additional information developed subsequent to programmatic analyses of alternatives. This information is used to inform the selection of a reasonable range of alternatives for consideration in the Tier 2 environmental review. The Checkpoint B Summary Report was sent to the USACE and the USEPA in December 2020. Pursuant to the MOU, the Checkpoint B Summary Report identified the range of alternatives to be carried forward in the Draft EIR/EIS. USEPA and USACE concurred with the selection of these alternatives on December 16, 2020, and December 17, 2020, respectively (Authority 2020a).

- **Checkpoint C: Determination of the Preliminary Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA)**—The Authority will prepare and submit a Checkpoint C Summary Report to USACE and USEPA for review. Based on the analysis of alternatives in Checkpoint C, a preliminary determination will be made regarding the LEDPA.

#### 9.4.8 Section 7 Consultation, Federal Endangered Species Act

When a federal agency takes a discretionary action, it must comply with Section 7(a)(2) of the Federal Endangered Species Act, which describes two duties for a federal action agency: (1) an independent, substantive duty to ensure its proposed actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of an endangered species, and (2) an independent, substantive duty to ensure its proposed actions would not result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. To meet these duties, the federal action agency must use the best available scientific and commercial data to assess the effects of the proposed action, and it must consult with the USFWS and/or NMFS for assistance. Through formal and/or informal Section 7 consultations, federal agencies determine whether a proposed action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species and/or result in the destruction or adverse modification of its critical habitat.

On March 1, 2011, FRA designated the Authority as the nonfederal representative for Section 7 consultation for the HSR program.<sup>8</sup> A Biological Assessment was prepared for the Palmdale to Burbank Project Section to initiate formal consultation with USFWS and satisfy all information requirements identified at 50 C.F.R. Part 402.14(c) (Authority 2021). Consultation with the NMFS was not initiated because no species or designated or proposed critical habitat under that agency's jurisdiction occurs or has potential to occur in the Palmdale to Burbank Project Section.

The Authority informally consulted with the USFWS throughout development of the Biological Assessment and associated technical studies and preparation of this Draft EIR/EIS. Meetings began in 2015 to discuss the Section 7 consultation approach and project overview, and to determine whether the project may affect listed species or critical habitat. Meetings were also held to discuss conservation strategies and the species modeling approach by which impacts on species could be identified and avoided. Discussions included approaches to documenting concurrences during the consultation process for specific species modeling, informal review of species natural history information (e.g., listing status, species description, life history attributes, and conservation needs), and No Effect determinations.<sup>9</sup> Review and discussion of species models, conservation targets, No Effect determinations, and Section 7 schedule and timeline continued regularly.

Starting in 2016, preliminary species effects assessments (i.e., examination of potential adverse effects of the proposed project on listed species) were presented to the USFWS for review and feedback prior to incorporation into the Biological Assessment.

#### 9.4.9 U.S. Forest Service Coordination

The USFS is a Cooperating Agency involved in the NEPA review process, agreed by letter dated August 25, 2014. The Authority informally consulted with the USFS throughout the preparation of the Draft EIR/EIS and associated technical reports. Meetings began in 2014 to discuss various topics.

<sup>8</sup> A federal agency can designate a nonfederal representative (a person, agency, or organization) to conduct informal consultation or prepare a Biological Assessment. The nonfederal representative is designated by written notice to the director. If a permit or license applicant is involved and that entity is not the designated nonfederal representative, then the applicant and the federal agency must agree on the choice of the designated nonfederal representative (50 C.F.R. Parts and 402.08). Pursuant to the NEPA Assignment MOU, the Authority has assumed the federal responsibility to conduct formal consultation.

<sup>9</sup> No Effect determinations were made for federally listed, proposed, and candidate species that would not be affected by the proposed project due to a lack of suitable habitat, local or regional extirpations, and/or because the project falls outside the species' known and extant geographic range.

From July to December of 2015, the Authority presented project descriptions, maps of the regional study area, general alignments with 500-foot buffers, the selection of a preferred Build Alternative, draft species list, and draft species modeling approach. The Authority continued coordination with the USFS regarding species information, effects determinations, development of modeling tools and data exchange and agency concurrence decisions.

Additional coordination with the USFS occurred in 2016, which included continued species information and mitigation coordination, among interagency coordination. Starting in 2016, preliminary species effects assessments (i.e., examination of potential adverse effects of the proposed project on listed species) were presented to the USFS for feedback on mitigation lands acquisition. For information regarding the consultation history of natural resource agencies see Table 3.7-3, in Section 3.7, Biological and Aquatic Resources.

In 2017, the Authority presented the methodology for assessing impacts on USFS lands to the USFS and responded to the agency's comments. Further consultation with the USFS was ongoing between 2017 and publication of this Draft EIR/EIS. In March 2019, the Authority held a meeting with the USFS to discuss potential impacts of tunneling on hydrological conditions. USFS expressed a desire to work with the Authority on developing a menu of possible mitigation measures to address any foreseeable impacts and establishing baseline conditions for monitoring potential changes in hydrogeologic conditions. During 2021, four additional meetings occurred with the USFS specifically for the topics regarding potential effects of tunnel construction on hydrologic and biological resources. In April of 2021, two meetings were held to discuss the USFS cooperating agency comments that were provided to the Authority for Section 3.7, Biological and Aquatic Resources, and Section 3.8, Hydrology and Water Resources.

## 9.5 Notification and Circulation of the Draft EIR/EIS

In March 2022, public notice regarding the availability and circulation of this Draft EIR/EIS was provided pursuant to NEPA and CEQA requirements, and text of the public notice was prepared in English and Spanish. Notification included publication of an advertisement in newspapers with general circulation in areas potentially affected by the project. The Draft EIR/EIS public comment period was advertised in the following newspapers:

- Acton-Agua Dulce Weekly News
- Antelope Valley Press
- Asbarez News
- Asian Journal
- The Burbank Leader
- Daily News
- Korea Daily
- La Opinión
- Los Angeles Times
- Nguoi Viet-Daily
- Panorama
- San Fernando Valley Sun
- San Fernando Valley El Sol
- Santa Clarita Valley Signal
- The Signal Newspaper
- Siamtownus
- World Journal Chinese Daily News

The newspaper advertisements indicated that the Draft EIR/EIS was available on the Authority's website for review. These advertisements and the Authority's website also noted the times and locations of workshops, public hearing, and the period during which public comments would be received. A letter, fact sheet, and Notice of Availability were provided in English and Spanish; these items were distributed by direct mail to members of the public who subscribed to the project mailing list, had attended project events (scoping, public meetings, etc.), or had sent

comments or questions via email or on the Authority's website. In addition, notice was sent to persons who own or live on properties as follows:<sup>10</sup>

- Within 1,000 feet of the Build Alternatives' footprints for above ground activity
- Within 500 feet of the Build Alternatives' footprints for tunnel activity
- Within 1,000 feet of the Build Alternatives' footprints for unincorporated areas
- Within 500 feet of the Build Alternatives' footprints for incorporated areas
- Within 1,200 feet of the Burbank Airport Station footprint

A postcard in English, Spanish, and other languages was mailed to additional stakeholders who had indicated interest in the project and requested that they be kept informed. A Notice of Completion indicating the availability of the Draft EIR/EIS was filed with the State Clearinghouse, and copies were sent to state agencies. Several dozen notices were displayed at businesses, public gathering places (e.g., post offices, Amtrak stations, local libraries, community centers), and the offices of city and county elected officials in the communities surrounding the project section alternative alignments.

Printed and/or electronic copies of the Draft EIR/EIS were sent to federal, state, and local agencies; regional transportation agencies; and other organizations and persons who had expressed an interest in the project. Transportation agencies with facilities within 0.5 mile of the alignment and regional transportation agencies included the Antelope Valley Transit Authority, the Burbank Transportation Division, Santa Clarita Transit, Metrolink, the Los Angeles Public Works Department, AMTRAK, and Mission City Transit. The entire Draft EIR/EIS, and appendices are available on the Authority's website ([www.hsr.ca.gov](http://www.hsr.ca.gov)). Electronic copies of these documents are available upon request at no cost at the Authority's main office (700 L Street, Suite 800, Sacramento, California 95814) and Southern California regional office (355 S. Grand Avenue, Suite 2050, Los Angeles, California 90071). Electronic copies also can be requested by mail or at: [https://buildhsr.com/contact\\_us/](https://buildhsr.com/contact_us/). Printed and electronic copies of the Draft EIR/EIS are available at public libraries, the Authority's offices, and county clerk offices. Chapter 10, EIR/EIS Distribution, provides a full distribution list for the Draft EIR/EIS.

California Governor Gavin Newsom announced directives to address the need to slow the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in California (and globally) by prohibiting gatherings of any size. In addition, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20, which ordered all individuals living in the state of California to stay home or at their place of residence until further notice. In order to comply with the governor's directives and Executive Order N-33-20, and to protect public health, the traditional in-person format of the public hearing was changed to a "virtual" public hearing held online and via telephone.

## 9.6 Log of Public and Agency Meetings

Table 9-5 lists outreach and related meetings for the Palmdale to Burbank Project Section. These meetings generally took place after publication of the NOI and NOP in the summer of 2014. However, initial Section 106 tribal consultation meetings and meetings leading up to the decision to divide the Palmdale to Los Angeles Project Section are also listed in Table 9-5. A variety of meeting types and outreach activities were conducted. Federal, state, regional, and local agencies, tribes, elected officials, neighborhood councils, organizations, businesses, and the general public participated in these meetings to obtain project information and provide feedback. Additional public and agency meetings have occurred between 2017 and 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings in 2020 through September 2021 were held virtually over Zoom Meetings.

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<sup>10</sup> The boundaries of each of the Build Alternative footprints for unincorporated areas and incorporated areas differ in distance due to the variance in both population rates and parcel ownership. In unincorporated areas, parcels tend to be larger, thus a larger footprint is necessary.

**Table 9-5 Public and Agency Meetings**

Date	Organization/Individual	Category
<b>Federal Agency Meetings</b>		
June 25, 2014	USACE, USEPA	Agency Staff
July 22, 2014	USFS	Agency Staff
October 27, 2014	USACE, USEPA, USFWS, USFS	Agency Staff
December 2, 2014	USHSR Conference	General Interest Organization
January 12, 2015	USFS	Agency Staff
February 17, 2015	USACE	Agency Staff
	USFS	
March 10, 2015	USEPA	Agency Staff
April 21, 2015	USACE, USEPA, USFWS	Agency Staff
April 28, 2015	USFS	Agency Staff
May 19, 2015	USFS	Agency Staff
May 20, 2015	USACE, USEPA, USFWS	Agency Staff
June 24, 2015	FRA	Agency Staff
September 9, 2015	FRA, USFWS	Agency Staff
October 20, 2015	USACE	Agency Staff
October 28, 2015	USFWS, NMFS	Agency Staff
December 15, 2015	USFWS, USFS	Agency Staff
January 21, 2016	USFWS, FRA	Agency Staff
March 23, 2016	USFWS, USFS	Agency Staff
May 5, 2016	FRA, USFWS	Agency Staff
June 22, 2016	USFWS, USFS	Agency Staff
July 28, 2016	FRA, USFWS	Agency Staff
September 13, 2016	FRA, USFWS	Agency Staff
October 4, 2016	FRA, USFWS	Agency Staff
January 25, 2017	USFWS, USACE	Agency Staff
November 12, 2017	USFS	Agency Staff
November 19, 2020	FAA	Agency Staff
January 14, 2021	FAA	Agency Staff
January 26, 2021	USFS	Agency Staff
<b>Tribal Meetings</b>		
October 21, 2009	San Fernando Band of Mission Indians	N/A
January 1, 2011	Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians; Santa Rosa Tachi Yokut Tribe; Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians	N/A

Date	Organization/Individual	Category
June 13, 2012	Native American Heritage Commission	Agency Staff
September 25, 2014	Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians; Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians Kizh Nation; San Manuel Band of Mission Indians; Gabrieleño/Tongva Nation; Tongva Ancestral Territorial Tribal Nation; no tribal affiliation – Jim Folkes and Beverly Salazar Folkes	N/A
November 20, 2014	Statewide Tribal Meeting	N/A
July 18, 2015	All California Tribes Invited	N/A
February 24, 2016	Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission	N/A
March 25, 2016	Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians	N/A
January 1, 2017	Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians; Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians Kizh Nation; San Manuel Band of Mission Indians	N/A
May 2, 2019	San Manuel Band of Mission Indians	N/A
September 3, 2019	All California Tribes Invited	N/A
<b>State, Regional, Local Agencies, and Legislative Briefings</b>		
January 7, 2014	Palmdale Station Area Planning Meeting with City of Palmdale Staff	Agency Staff
	City of Glendale Briefing	
January 29, 2014	City of Palmdale Coordination Meeting	Agency Staff
February 3, 2014	Sun Valley Watershed Call	Agency Staff
February 11, 2014	High Desert Corridor HSR Coordination Meeting with Caltrans, Parsons, Metro and City of Palmdale Staff	Agency Staff
March 12, 2014	City of Santa Clarita	Agency Staff
April 2-3, 2014	Authority California Passenger Rail Forum	General Interest Organization
April 15, 2014	City of Los Angeles, San Fernando TWG	Technical Advisory Group/ Technical Working Group
June 16, 2014	Metro and Metrolink	Agency Staff
July 8, 2014	City of Palmdale	Agency Staff
July 21, 2014	City of Burbank Transportation Committee	Stakeholder Organization
July 22, 2014	Metro	Agency Staff
August 5, 2014	Los Angeles Department of Transportation and Planning Department	Agency Staff
August 12, 2014	Los Angeles River/Natural Resources Defense Council Working Group	Stakeholder Organization
August 18, 2014	Metro and Metrolink	Agency Staff
August 26, 2014	City of San Fernando	Agency Staff

Date	Organization/Individual	Category
September 9, 2014	Joint City of Burbank Council and Transportation Commission Meeting	Stakeholder Organization
	Burbank Area Legislative Briefing	Agency Staff
September 12, 2014	Northern Valley Legislative Briefing	Agency Staff
September 15, 2014	Metro and Metrolink	Agency Staff
October 6, 2014	Los Angeles River Cooperation Committee	Stakeholder Organization
October 23, 2014	Orange County Transportation Authority Small Business Expo	General Interest Organization
November 5, 2014	City of San Fernando	Agency Staff
November 12, 2014	City of San Fernando	Agency Staff
November 14, 2014	City of Santa Clarita	Agency Staff
November 17, 2014	Metro and Metrolink	Agency Staff
November 19, 2014	City of Burbank	Agency Staff
December 10, 2014	Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District — Meeting with Dr. Brent Woodard, Superintendent	Agency Staff
December 13, 2014	Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center Grand Opening	General Interest Organization
December 15, 2014	Metro and Metrolink	Agency Staff
December 17, 2014	Metro	Agency Staff
January 6, 2015	Authority Groundbreaking, Fresno	Public
January 20, 2015	Los Angeles Business Council Institute, Legislative Committee	General Interest Organization
	City of San Fernando	Agency Staff
January 28, 2015	City of Glendale	Agency Staff
February 17, 2015	City of Palmdale	Agency Staff
February 19, 2015	City of Palmdale	Agency Staff
March 6, 2015	City of Palmdale	Agency Staff
March 23, 2015	City of Palmdale	Agency Staff
April 8, 2015	Legislative Briefing	Agency Staff
	City of Palmdale	Agency Staff
April 9, 2015	Legislative Briefing	Agency Staff
April 14, 2015	Metro and Los Angeles Sustainability Coalition Sustainability Construction Forum	General Interest Organization
April 18-19, 2015	City of Lancaster, California Poppy Festival	Public
April 30, 2015	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Spring Green Expo	General Interest Organization

Date	Organization/Individual	Category
May 21, 2015	Metro and other Southern California transportation agencies 'Women Can Build' Photo Exhibit Opening	General Interest Organization
June 24, 2015	CDFW	Agency Staff
July 8, 2015	Metrolink	Agency Staff
July 23, 2015	Burbank City Staff	Agency Staff
August 2, 2015	City of Burbank, Burbank Starlight Bowl	Public
August 14, 2015	Metrolink	Agency Staff
August 17, 2015	Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority	Agency Staff
August 31, 2015	Southern California Association of Governments Environmental Justice Forum	Stakeholder Organization
September 8, 2015	City of Palmdale	Agency Staff
September 9, 2015	General Meeting with Metrolink Staff	Agency Staff
October 13, 2015	City of Palmdale	Agency Staff
October 27, 2015	General Meeting with Metrolink Staff	Agency Staff
October 28, 2015	CDFW	Agency Staff
November 10, 2015	City of Palmdale	Agency Staff
November 18, 2015	General Meeting with Metrolink Staff	Agency Staff
November 19, 2015	City of Palmdale	Agency Staff
December 8, 2015	City of Palmdale	Agency Staff
December 9, 2015	General Meeting with Metrolink Staff	Agency Staff
December 15, 2015	CDFW	Agency Staff
January 12, 2016	City of Palmdale	Agency Staff
January 13, 2016	Metro and Metrolink	Agency Staff
February 23, 2016	Metro Meet the Primes	Public
February 25, 2016	City of Palmdale	Agency Staff
March 1, 2016	Metro and Metrolink	Agency Staff
March 23, 2016	CDFW	Agency Staff
April 6, 2016	City of Los Angeles/San Fernando Valley Stakeholder Working Group Meeting	Stakeholder Working Group
April 18, 2016	CDFW	Agency Staff
May 10, 2016	Palmdale Water District	General Interest Organization
May 19, 2016	Antelope Valley Union High School District	Agency Staff
May 23, 2016	CDFW	Agency Staff
June 22, 2016	CDFW	Agency Staff
June 27, 2016	CDFW	Agency Staff



Date	Organization/Individual	Category
October 12, 2016	Environmental Resource Agencies Monthly Meeting	Agency Staff
October 18, 2016	Acton/Agua Dulce Unified School District	Agency Staff
November 1, 2016	PTE Advance Site Visit: Blum Ranch Property, Acton	Public
November 14, 2016	PTE Field Work: Blum Ranch Property, Acton (Elizabeth Billet)	Public
December 8, 2016	CDFW	Agency Staff
January 25, 2017	CDFW	Agency Staff
November 2, 2018	City of Los Angeles City Staff	Agency Staff
November 7, 2018	LADWP Sheldon Power Plant	Agency Staff
August 22, 2019	Palmdale Water District	General Interest Organization
October 24, 2019	City of Palmdale	Agency Staff
December 9, 2019	Palmdale Water District	General Interest Organization
April 24, 2020	City of Santa Clarita	Agency Staff
May 2, 2020	City of Santa Clarita	Agency Staff
June 12, 2020	Acton-Agua Dulce School District	Agency Staff
August 19, 2020	Los Angeles County Department of Public Works	Agency Staff
October 20, 2020	City of Palmdale	Agency Staff
October 30, 2020	Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency	Agency Staff
November 3, 2020	City of Santa Clarita	Agency Staff
<b>Elected Official Briefings</b>		
January 31, 2014	Councilmember Mike Bonin's Staff	Elected
February 26, 2014	Councilmember Jose Huizar's Staff	Elected
March 12, 2014	Congressman McKeon's Staff	Elected
March 14, 2014	Congresswoman Hahn's Staff	Elected
April 8, 2014	Assemblymember Mike Gatto's Staff	Elected
April 14, 2014	Senator Carol Liu's Staff	Elected
April 15, 2014	State Senator Alex Padilla's Staff	Elected
April 16, 2014	Assemblymember Steve Fox's Staff	Elected
April 24, 2014	Congressman Tony Cardenas and Assemblymember Raul Bocanegra's Staff	Elected
May 5, 2014	San Fernando City Council, Public Comment	Elected
May 6, 2014	Burbank City Council	Elected
May 13, 2014	Los Angeles City Councilmember Felipe Fuentes' Staff	Elected
June 16, 2014	Los Angeles City Councilmember Felipe Fuentes	Elected

Date	Organization/Individual	Category
June 17, 2014	Los Angeles City Councilmember Felipe Fuentes Staff	Elected
September 2, 2014	State Senator Fran Pavley's Office	Elected
	Los Angeles City Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell's Office	Elected
September 3, 2014	Gateway Cities Council of Governments, Board of Directors	Elected / Agency Staff
September 4, 2014	Los Angeles City Councilmember Gilbert Cedillo's Office	Elected
September 8, 2014	Congressman Xavier Becerra's Office	Elected
October 30, 2014	Congressman Buck McKeon's Office	Elected
November 19, 2014	Legislative Briefing	Elected / Agency Staff
	Office of Congresswoman Judy Chu	Elected / Agency Staff
	Office of Congressman Adam Schiff	Elected / Agency Staff
	Office of State Senator Carol Liu	Elected / Agency Staff
	Office of State Senator Fran Pavley	Elected / Agency Staff
	Office of Councilmember Felipe Fuentes	Elected / Agency Staff
	Office of Councilmember Nury Martinez	Elected / Agency Staff
	City of Burbank	Elected / Agency Staff
	City of San Fernando	Elected / Agency Staff
November 20, 2014	Legislative Briefing	Elected / Agency Staff
	City of Santa Clarita	Elected / Agency Staff
	Office of Congressman Steve Knight	Elected / Agency Staff
	Office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael Antonovich	Elected / Agency Staff
November 25, 2014	Los Angeles City Councilmember Felipe Fuentes	Elected
December 9, 2014	Office of Congressman Adam Schiff	Elected
December 22, 2014	Office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael Antonovich	Elected
January 12, 2015	Office of Congresswoman Judy Chu	Elected
January 20, 2015	Office of Assemblymember Patty Lopez	Elected
January 21, 2015	Office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl	Elected
	Office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis	Elected

Date	Organization/Individual	Category
January 26, 2015	Chairman Dan Richard Tour with Santa Clarita (Mayor Marsha McLean, Councilmember TimBen Boydston)	Elected
February 2, 2015	City of San Fernando City Council Meeting	Elected
February 3, 2015	City of Burbank City Council Meeting	Elected
February 17, 2015	Office of Congressman Tony Cardenas	Elected
February 18, 2015	Office of State Senator Bob Hertzberg	Elected
February 19, 2015	Legislative Briefing:	Elected / Agency Staff
	Office of Senator Carol Liu	Elected / Agency Staff
	Office of Senator Bob Hertzberg	Elected / Agency Staff
	Office of Senator Fran Pavley	Elected / Agency Staff
	Office of Assemblymember Patty Lopez	Elected / Agency Staff
	Office of Assemblymember Scott Wilk	Elected / Agency Staff
	Office of Congressman Tony Cardenas	Elected / Agency Staff
	Office of Congressman Adam Schiff	Elected / Agency Staff
	Office of Congresswoman Judy Chu	Elected / Agency Staff
	Office of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, Michael Antonovich	Elected / Agency Staff
	Office of Councilmember Nury Martinez	Elected / Agency Staff
	Office of Mike Gatto	Elected / Agency Staff
	City of Palmdale	Elected / Agency Staff
	City of Santa Clarita	Elected / Agency Staff
	City of San Fernando	Elected / Agency Staff
February 23, 2015	Tour of Shadow Hills Community Area—Chairperson Dan Richard visited and toured Kagel Canyon, Tujunga Wash, and Shadow Hills with members of the community	Elected
March 3, 2015	Los Angeles City Mayor Eric Garcetti's Office	Elected
March 9, 2015	Office of Congressman Tony Cardenas	Elected
March 11, 2015	Chairman Dan Richard Tour of San Fernando (City Councilmembers)	Elected
March 18, 2015	Office of Assemblymember Miguel Santiago	Elected
April 8, 2015	Independent Cities Association, Board of Directors Member, Robert Gonzales (San Fernando Valley City Councilmember)	Elected

Date	Organization/Individual	Category
April 15, 2015	Valley Industry and Commerce Association Government Affairs Committee Presentation	Elected / Agency Staff / Stakeholder Organization
	Office of State Senator Robert M. Hertzberg, District 18	
	Office of State Controller Betty T. Yee	
	Office of Assemblymember Matt Dababneh, District 45	
	Office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila James Kuehl, Third District	
May 1, 2015	Office of Assemblymember Patty Lopez	Elected
	Office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl	
May 4, 2015	Office of Los Angeles City Councilmember Felipe Fuentes	Elected
May 15, 2015	Legislative Briefing: Open House Preview Office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl	Elected
	Office of Congressman Adam Schiff	
	Office of State Senator Carol Liu	
	Office of State Senator Bob Hertzberg	
	Office of City Councilman Felipe Fuentes	
	Office of State Senator Fran Pavley	
May 18, 2015	Office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael Antonovich	Elected
May 22, 2015	Tour of the proposed Northeast San Fernando Valley alignments—Authority Board Member Katherine Perez-Estolano, Joel Fajardo, Mayor, San Fernando, and Dave DePinto of SAFE	Elected / Stakeholder Organization
	Office of Congressman Adam Schiff	Elected
	Office of Congressman Steve Knight	Elected
June 2, 2015	San Fernando, Special City Council Meeting	Elected
July 14, 2015	City of Santa Clarita City Council Meeting	Elected
July 15, 2015	Joint Meeting: City of Burbank City Council and Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority	Elected / Agency Staff
July 17, 2015	Briefing with Assemblymember Patty Lopez Staff	Elected
July 18, 2015	Assemblymember Patty Lopez California HSR Community Meeting	Elected / Public Information Meeting
	Assemblymember Patty Lopez and Staff Community members	

Date	Organization/Individual	Category
August 22, 2015	Assemblymember Patty Lopez HSR Forum	Elected
September 24, 2015	Office of Senator Bob Hertzberg	Elected
	City of Burbank Council Meeting	Elected
September 25, 2015	Briefing with Assembly Member Patty Lopez and Staff	Elected
	Office of Congresswoman Judy Chu	
	Office of Congressman Adam Schiff	
September 26, 2015	Assembly Member Patty Lopez HSR Forum	Elected
October 5, 2015	Office of State Senator Carol Liu	Elected
October 19, 2015	City of Los Angeles City Councilmember Felipe Fuentes	Elected
October 21, 2015	Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti	Elected
October 26, 2015	Office of Los Angeles City Councilmember Nury Martinez	Elected
October 27, 2015	Meeting with Burbank City Council/Transportation Commission	Elected / Stakeholder Organization
November 19, 2015	Office of Congressman Tony Cardenas	Elected
	Office of Congressman Brad Sherman	
March 10, 2016	Office of Los Angeles City Councilmember Nury Martinez	Elected
	Office of Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Krekorian	
March 11, 2016	Office of Congressman Tony Cardenas	Elected
	Office of State Senator Bob Hertzberg	
	Office of Congressman Brad Sherman	
	Office of Congressman Adam Schiff's Staff	
	Office of Assemblymember Mike Gatto	
	Office of State Senator Carol Liu	
	Office of Congressman Tony Cardenas	
March 14, 2016	Los Angeles City Councilmember Felipe Fuentes and Staff	Elected
March 21, 2016	Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti	Elected
March 23, 2016	Office of Supervisor Michael Antonovich	Elected
March 25, 2016	Office of Representative Adam Schiff	Elected
	Office of Assemblymember Patty Lopez	
April 4, 2016	Office of State Senator Carol Liu	Elected
May 16, 2016	PTE Site Observation with Assembly Member Patty Lopez Staff	Elected

Date	Organization/Individual	Category
June 16, 2016	Field Visit: Elected Officials' Staff Visit to ANF Drill Sites	Elected
	Office of Congressman Tony Cardenas	
	Office State Senator Carol Liu	
	Office of Assemblymember Patty Lopez	
	Office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael Antonovich	
July 22, 2016	Office of Senator Robert Hertzberg	Elected
	Office of Los Angeles City Councilmember Nury Martinez	
	Office of State Senator Carol Liu	
	Office of Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Krekorian	
August 26, 2016	Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti	Elected
September 16, 2016	LAUSD Board Member Staff Briefing	Elected
October 4, 2016	Office of Los Angeles Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell	Elected
	Los Angeles Deputy Mayor Barbara Romero	
	Office of Los Angeles Councilmember Herb Wesson	
October 7, 2016	Office of Los Angeles Councilmember Mike Bonin	Elected
January 26, 2017	Office of State Senator Anthony Portantino	Elected
	Office of Assembly Member Dante Acosta	
	Office of Assembly Member Raul Bocanegra	
	Office of Assembly Member Laura Friedman	
March 9, 2017	Councilmember Ara Najarian, City of Glendale	Elected
March 24, 2017	Corridor Tour with Assemblymember Raul Bocanegra and Staff	Elected
	Office of Councilmember Nury Martinez	
February 2, 2018	Office of Los Angeles City Councilmember Mike Bonin	Elected
March 9, 2018	Office of Los Angeles City Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez	Elected
July 27, 2018	Office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl	Elected
September 19, 2018	Webinar announcing the State's Preferred Alternative to Elected Officials	Elected

Date	Organization/Individual	Category
	Office of State Assemblymember Jay Obernolte, District 33	
	Office of State Assemblymember Wendy Carrillo, District 51	
	Office of State Senator Robert M. Hertzberg, District 18	
	Office of United States Congressman Adam Schiff, District 28	
	Office of United States Congressman Brad Sherman, District 30	
	Office of United States Congressman Judy Chu, District 27	
	Office of United States Congressman Lucille Roybal-Allard, District 40	
	Office of United States Congressman Tony Cardenas, District 29	
March 1, 2019	Assemblymember Christy Smith, District 38	Elected
April 5, 2019	Congresswoman Katie Hill, District 25	Elected
April 10, 2020	Office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger's, District 5	Elected
July 10, 2020	Office of Congressman Mike Garcia	Elected
July 22, 2020	Office of Senator Scott Wilk	Elected
August 10, 2020	Office of State Assemblymember Tom Lackey	Elected
October 16, 2020	Webinar announcing the State's Modified Preferred Alternative to Elected Officials	Elected
	City of Santa Clarita	
	Office of Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Krekorian	
	Office of Congressman Adam Schiff	
	Office of California State Senator Anthony Portantino	
	Office of California State Senator Scott Wilk	
	Office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger	
	Office of State Assembly member Christy Smith	
	Office of Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti	
	Office of Los Angeles City Councilmember Nury Martinez	

Date	Organization/Individual	Category
	Office of Congressman Mike Garcia	
October 20, 2020	City of Palmdale	Elected
November 3, 2020	City of Santa Clarita	Elected
December 3, 2020	City of Palmdale	Elected
January 19, 2021	Office of Assembly member Luz Rivas	Elected
February 23, 2021	Office of State Senator Anthony Portantino	Elected
May 11, 2021	Office of Representative Mike Garcia	Elected
May 14, 2021	City of Burbank Councilmember Nick Schultz	Elected
September 13, 2021	Office of Los Angeles City Councilmember Nury Martinez	Elected
October 5, 2021	Office of Los Angeles City Councilmember Nury Martinez	Elected
<b>Neighborhood/Local Council Meetings</b>		
February 5, 2014	Santa Clarita Stakeholder Working Group Meeting	Stakeholder Working Group
February 6, 2014	San Fernando Valley Stakeholder Working Group Meeting	Stakeholder Working Group
	Burbank-Glendale Stakeholder Working Group Meeting	
February 13, 2014	Acton/Agua Dulce Stakeholder Working Group Meeting	Stakeholder Working Group
March 4, 2014	Downtown Los Angeles Stakeholder Working Group Meeting	Stakeholder Working Group
	Northeast Los Angeles Stakeholder Working Group Meeting	
March 5, 2014	San Fernando Valley Council of Governments Mobility Summit	General Interest Organization
March 28, 2014	Move LA, Transportation Conversation Event	General Interest Organization
May 3, 2014	Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority National Train Day	Public
May 5, 2014	Acton/Agua Dulce Community Workshop	Stakeholder Organization
May 21, 2014	SAA Community Open House Meeting - DTLA Union Station	Public Information Meeting
May 28, 2014	SAA Community Open House Meeting - Burbank	Public Information Meeting
May 29, 2014	SAA Community Open House Meeting - Palmdale	Public Information Meeting
June 5, 2014	SAA Community Open House Meeting - Santa Clarita	Public Information Meeting
July 14, 2014	Presentation to Foothill Trails Neighborhood Council	Stakeholder Organization
July 30, 2014	Presentation to Acton Town Council	Stakeholder Organization



Date	Organization/Individual	Category
July 17, 2014	Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council	Stakeholder Organization
July 30, 2014	Presentation to Acton Town Council	Stakeholder Organization
August 5, 2014	Santa Clarita Scoping Meeting	Public Information Meeting
August 6, 2014	Burbank Scoping Meeting	Public Information Meeting
August 7, 2014	Palmdale Scoping Meeting	Public Information Meeting
August 11, 2014	Acton/Agua Dulce Scoping Meeting	Public Information Meeting
August 13, 2014	Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council	Stakeholder Organization
August 14, 2014	Sylmar Scoping Meeting	Public Information Meeting
	Lake View Terrace Scoping Meeting	Public Information Meeting
August 19, 2014	Downtown Los Angeles Scoping Meeting	Public Information Meeting
August 20, 2014	Pacoima Neighborhood Council	Stakeholder Organization
August 28, 2014	Sylmar Neighborhood Council	Stakeholder Organization
September 18, 2014	North Hollywood North East Neighborhood Council	Stakeholder Organization
November 13, 2014	Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils	Stakeholder Organization
December 2, 2014	Community Open House Meeting #1 – Santa Clarita	Public Information Meeting
December 3, 2014	Community Open House Meeting #2 – Shadow Hills/Lake View Terrace/Foothill Communities	Public Information Meeting
December 4, 2014	Community Open House Meeting #3 – Palmdale	Public Information Meeting
December 8, 2014	Community Open House Meeting #4 – Burbank	Public Information Meeting
December 9, 2014	Community Open House Meeting #5 – San Fernando	Public Information Meeting
December 10, 2014	Community Open House Meeting #6 – Sylmar	Public Information Meeting
December 12, 2014	Antelope Valley African American Chamber of Commerce	General Interest Organization
December 13, 2014	Community Open House Meeting #7 – Acton	Public Information Meeting
January 13, 2015	Foothill Communities Stakeholder Meeting	Public Information Meeting
January 21, 2015	Pacoima Neighborhood Council Board of Directors	Stakeholder Organization
January 26, 2015	Northern Corridor Cities Meetings	Stakeholder Organization
January 31, 2015	Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council - Town Hall Meeting	Stakeholder Organization
February 7, 2015	Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition	Stakeholder Organization
February 18, 2015	Pacoima Neighborhood Council	Stakeholder Organization
February 19, 2015	Crescenta Valley Town Council	Stakeholder Organization
	Foothill Trails Neighborhood Council	

Date	Organization/Individual	Category
February 23, 2015	CWG #1: Foothill Communities	Public Information Meeting
February 24, 2015	CWG #2: San Fernando	Public Information Meeting
February 25, 2015	CWG #3: Sylmar	Public Information Meeting
February 26, 2015	Follow-up meeting from the Community Meeting with Foothill community leaders	Stakeholder Organization
February 28, 2015	Communities Against Displacement Stakeholder Meeting (Pacoima, San Fernando, and Sylmar)	Stakeholder Organization
March 2, 2015	CWG #4: Palmdale	Public Information Meeting
March 3, 2015	CWG #5: Santa Clarita Valley	Public Information Meeting
March 4, 2015	CWG #6: Burbank	Public Information Meeting
March 5, 2015	Ongoing follow-up meeting with Foothill community leaders	Stakeholder Organization
March 7, 2015	CWG #7: Acton / Agua Dulce	Public Information Meeting
March 9, 2015	CWG #8: Sun Valley	Public Information Meeting
March 19, 2015	San Fernando Valley Council of Governments Board of Directors	Stakeholder Organization
April 9, 2015	San Fernando Valley Council of Governments Board of Directors	Stakeholder Organization
April 13, 2015	CWG #1: Burbank	Technical Advisory Group/ Technical Working Group
April 14, 2015	CWG #2: Foothill Communities	Technical Advisory Group/ Technical Working Group
April 16, 2015	CWG #3: Sylmar	Technical Advisory Group/ Technical Working Group
April 20, 2015	CWG #4: Sun Valley	Technical Advisory Group/ Technical Working Group
April 21, 2015	CWG #5: Pacoima (Spanish/bilingual)	Technical Advisory Group/ Technical Working Group
April 22, 2015	CWG #6: Santa Clarita Valley	Technical Advisory Group/ Technical Working Group
April 23, 2015	CWG #7: San Fernando	Technical Advisory Group/ Technical Working Group
April 25, 2015	CWG #8: Acton / Agua Dulce	Technical Advisory Group/ Technical Working Group
April 27, 2015	CWG #9: Palmdale	Technical Advisory Group/ Technical Working Group
April 30, 2015	Foothill Communities Representatives Small Group Meeting	Stakeholder Organization
	San Fernando Valley Council of Governments Transportation Committee	

Date	Organization/Individual	Category
May 12, 2015	Santa Clarita Stakeholders	Stakeholder Organization
May 16, 2015	Community Open House Meeting #1 - Pacoima	Public Information Meeting
May 18, 2015	Community Open House Meeting #2 - Burbank	Public Information Meeting
May 19, 2015	Community Open House Meeting #3 - Sun Valley	Public Information Meeting
July 16, 2015	San Fernando Valley Council of Governments Board of Directors	Stakeholder Organization
September 24, 2015	San Fernando Valley Council of Governments	Stakeholder Organization
October 14, 2015	Field Visit and Tour with SAFE Community Representatives	Stakeholder Organization
January 21, 2016	San Fernando Valley Council of Governments Board of Directors Meeting	Stakeholder Organization
March 17, 2016	San Fernando Valley Council of Governments Board Meeting	Stakeholder Organization
April 5, 2016	Burbank Stakeholder Working Group Meeting	Stakeholder Working Group
April 8, 2016	North Los Angeles County Stakeholder Working Group Meeting	Stakeholder Working Group
April 21, 2016	City of Palmdale California HSR System Station Area Plan Community Meeting	Public Information Meeting
May 9, 2016	Acton Town Council	Stakeholder Organization
May 24, 2016	Acton Town Council Meeting	Stakeholder Organization
August 24, 2016	Community Working Group Meeting, Sun Valley/Pacoima	Technical Advisory Group/Technical Working Group
August 25, 2016	Stakeholder Working Group Meeting, Santa Clarita	Stakeholder Working Group
August 30, 2016	Community Working Group Meeting, Acton/Agua Dulce	Technical Advisory Group/Technical Working Group
August 31, 2016	Community Working Group Meeting, Northeast San Fernando Valley	Technical Advisory Group/Technical Working Group
September 14, 2016	Palmdale Community Open House Meeting	Public Information Meeting
September 17, 2016	Acton/Agua Dulce Community Open House Meeting	Public Information Meeting
September 22, 2016	Northeast San Fernando Valley Open House Meeting	Public Information Meeting
July 19, 2017	EJ Outreach – Summer Reading Program, Sun Valley Branch Library	Public
July 22, 2017	EJ Outreach – Antelope Valley Partners for Health Back 2 School Event	Public

Date	Organization/Individual	Category
September 19, 2018	Webinar announcing the State's Preferred Alternative to the public	Public Information Meeting
September 24, 2018	Community Open House: Lake View Terrace, Shadow Hills, and Sunland-Tujunga	Public Information Meeting
September 25, 2018	Small Group Meeting w/ Pacoima and Sun Valley Community Leaders	Stakeholder Organization
September 26, 2018	Community Open House: Pacoima / Northeast San Fernando Valley	Public Information Meeting
September 27, 2018	Community Open House: Palmdale	Public Information Meeting
September 27, 2018	Community Open House: Acton / Agua Dulce	Public Information Meeting
October 9, 2018	Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council	Stakeholder Organization
February 12, 2019	EJ Outreach - Pacoima Library: English Conversation Class	Public
February 28, 2019	EJ Outreach – Antelope Valley: “The BLVD Market”	Public
March 18, 2019	EJ Outreach – Pacoima Beautiful: Community Inspectors Meeting	Public
March 27, 2019	EJ Outreach – Pacoima Beautiful: Youth United Towards Environmental Protection Meeting	Public
April 27, 2019	EJ Outreach – Sun Valley Recreation Center: Earth Day LA	Public
July 20, 2019	EJ Outreach – Making It Happen Inc.: Food Pantry Event, Sunland-Tujunga	Public
August 10, 2019	EJ Outreach – Meet Each Need with Dignity (M.E.N.D.) - Emergency Food and Clothing Assistance, Pacoima	Public
October 2, 2019	Palmdale Station Area Plan (SAP) Community Open House	Public Information Meeting
April 17, 2020	Acton Town Council Members	Stakeholder Organization
April 30, 2020	Agua Dulce Town Council Members	Stakeholder Organization
June 12, 2020	Acton-Agua Dulce School District	Stakeholder Organization
October 22, 2020	Community Open House Meeting – Zoom Webinar to Project Section	Public Information Meeting
<b>Organization and Business Meetings</b>		
April 7, 2014	California HSR System Presentation to Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce’s Government Affairs Committee	General Interest Organization
July 23, 2014	Walt Disney Studios	Stakeholder Organization
July 31, 2014	California Construction Expo Panel Discussion	General Interest Organization
August 27, 2014	Shadow Hills Property Owners Association	Stakeholder Organization

Date	Organization/Individual	Category
	Little Tokyo Leadership	General Interest Organization
October 3, 2014	Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	Stakeholder Organization
October 6, 2014	Los Angeles River Cooperation Committee	Stakeholder Organization
	Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator	General Interest Organization
October 7, 2014	Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator	
October 11, 2014	Neighborhood Housing Services of Los Angeles County Neighborhood Sustainability Symposium	General Interest Organization
October 16, 2014	Burbank Chamber of Commerce	Stakeholder Organization
October 21, 2014	Railway Association	General Interest Organization
October 23, 2014	Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America	General Interest Organization
October 28, 2014	California Polytechnic State University Pomona, American Planning Students Association	General Interest Organization
November 4, 2014	Burbank and Glendale Transportation Management Organizations	Stakeholder Organization
November 10, 2014	University of California, Los Angeles Institute of Transportation Studies	General Interest Organization
November 12, 2014	KCAA 1050 AM "Money Talk" Host	Media
November 13, 2014	Small Business DVBE Summit	General Interest Organization
November 20, 2014	Los Angeles Auto Show Connected City Summit	General Interest Organization
December 3, 2014	Shadow Hills Property Owners Association	Stakeholder Organization
December 5, 2014	Walt Disney Studios	Stakeholder Organization
January 8, 2015	Shadow Hills Property Owners Association, David DePinto	Stakeholder Organization
January 13, 2015	Foothill Communities Community Meeting, SAFE	Stakeholder Organization
	The American Society of Civil Engineers, Orange County Branch	General Interest Organization
January 20, 2015	Valley Industry and Commerce Association	General Interest Organization
January 20, 2015	Los Angeles Business Council Legislative Committee	Stakeholder Organization
January 26, 2015	VerdeXchange 2015	General Interest Organization
January 27, 2015	KCRW "Which Way LA?" Interview	Media
January 29, 2015	Los Angeles Tourism and Convention Board	General Interest Organization
February 26, 2015	San Fernando Valley Town Hall—Imagining Our Transportation Future	Stakeholder Organization
March 5, 2015	Angeles National Golf Club	Stakeholder Organization
March 11, 2015	California State University Northridge, Transportation/Urban Planning Students	General Interest Organization
	Eco Rapid Transit Board	General Interest Organization

Date	Organization/Individual	Category
March 13, 2015	Time Warner Cable Videotaping	Media
	Construction Management Association of America Breakfast of Champions	General Interest Organization
March 17, 2015	National Association of Women in Construction	General Interest Organization
March 18, 2015	American Institute of Architects, Los Angeles Chapter	General Interest Organization
	Shadow Hills Property Owners Association / SAFE	Stakeholder Organization
March 26, 2015	Pacoima Beautiful (All-Spanish Presentation)	Stakeholder Organization
	Railway Association of Southern California	General Interest Organization
March 27, 2015	Rail Users Network Annual National Conference – “Making the Transition from Roads to Rail”	General Interest Organization
April 8, 2015	San Fernando Road Business Alliance	Stakeholder Organization
	Independent Cities Association, Board of Directors Member, Robert Gonzales	General Interest Organization
April 22, 2015	Santa Clarita Cougar News (high school news) Video Interview	Media
April 28, 2015	USC Rail Engineering Students Presentation	General Interest Organization
May 1-3, 2015	State Building & Construction Trades Council - Women Building the Nation Presentation	General Interest Organization
May 2, 2015	Chinese American Engineers & Scientists Association of Southern California Presentation	General Interest Organization
May 12, 2015	Santa Clarita Stakeholders	Stakeholder Organization
	Valley Industry and Commerce Association Transportation Committee	Stakeholder Organization
June 2, 2015	Los Angeles Area Chamber Transportation & Goods Movement Council	Stakeholder Organization
August 1, 2015	Friends 4 HSR SoCal, Champions for High-Speed Rail (kick-off meeting)	Stakeholder Organization
August 6, 2015	Palmdale Kiwanis Club	Stakeholder Organization
August 12, 2015	Palmdale Kiwanis Club	Stakeholder Organization
August 26, 2015	Metro Active Transportation Strategic Plan Open House Workshop	Stakeholder Organization
August 27, 2015	St. Didacus Catholic Church Stakeholder Meeting	Stakeholder Organization
October 14, 2015	Field Visit and Tour with SAFE Community Representatives	Stakeholder Organization
November 6, 2015	Los Angeles: Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels-Conference Center Path to Positive	Public
December 2, 2015	SAFE High-Speed Rail Status Meeting	Stakeholder Organization

Date	Organization/Individual	Category
January 15, 2016	Pacoima Work Source Center Youth Policy Institute Small Business Workshop	Public Information Meeting
April 4, 2016	Vulcan Materials Meeting	General Interest Organization
April 5, 2016	Disney Headquarters Environmental Fair	Public
November 17, 2016	Presentation: Placerita Canyon Homeowners Association	Stakeholder Organization
November 29, 2016	Burbank to Los Angeles Project Section Open House	Public Information Meeting
April 4, 2017	Antelope Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Presentation, Palmdale	Stakeholder Organization
May 8, 2018	Valley Industry Commerce Association	Stakeholder Organization
October 23, 2018	One-on-One Meeting with Dave DePinto of Save Angeles Forest for Everyone	Stakeholder Organization
July 8, 2020	Southern California Edison	Stakeholder Organization
July 20, 2020	Briefing with North County Transportation Commission (NCTC)	Stakeholder Organization
January 25, 2021	Briefing with North County Transportation Commission (NCTC)	Stakeholder Organization
March 18, 2021	Briefing with Antelope Valley Economic Development & Growth Enterprise (AV EDGE)	Stakeholder Organization

<sup>1</sup>The Federal Aviation Administration meeting held on April 14, 2021, was a joint meeting with the Authority to discuss impacts regarding the Hollywood Burbank Airport.

Category Key:

Authority = California High-Speed Rail Authority; CDFW = California Department of Fish and Wildlife; CWG = Community Working Group; DTLA = Downtown Los Angeles; DVBE = Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise; EJ = environmental justice; FRA = Federal Railroad Administration; HSR = high-speed rail; LADWP = Los Angeles Department of Water and Power; LAUSD = Los Angeles Unified School District; Metro = Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority; NAHC = Native American Heritage Commission; NMFS = National Marine Fisheries Service; SAA = Supplemental Alternatives Analysis; SAFE = Save Angeles Forest for Everyone; TWG = Technical Working Group; USACE = United States Army Corps of Engineers; USEPA = United States Environmental Protection Agency; USFS = United States Forest Service; USFWS = United States Fish and Wildlife Service; USHR = United States High-Speed Rail Association

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