

## 9 Public and Agency Involvement

Pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority), as the lead state and NEPA agency, has been implementing a public and agency involvement program as part of the environmental review process. Public and agency involvement efforts began with the alternatives analysis and development of the wye connection in 2010 described in Section 2.1.2, The Wye Connection, for the *Merced to Fresno Section California High-Speed Train Final Project Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)* (Merced to Fresno Final EIR/EIS) (Authority and FRA 2012). This chapter describes the continuing public and agency involvement program for this *Merced to Fresno Section: Central Valley Wye Final Supplemental EIR/EIS* (Final Supplemental EIR/EIS). Refer to Chapter 8, Public and Agency Involvement, of the Merced to Fresno Final EIR/EIS for additional information on public and stakeholder involvement that occurred previously (Authority and FRA 2012: pages 8-1 through 8-49).

Since publication of the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS, in addition to the global issues discussed in Section S.1.2, Global Changes in the Final Supplemental EIR/EIS, of the Summary, this chapter was revised to include discussion of the circulation of the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS and the Revised/Second Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS, Biological Resources Analysis, as well as additional meetings conducted by the Authority since printing and publication of the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS.

Although neither CEQA nor NEPA require scoping for a Supplemental EIR/EIS, the Authority hosted agency and public meetings beginning in 2012 to inform the Authority's consideration of alternatives and to solicit input on the Central Valley Wye environmental review. These meetings are further detailed below (refer to Section 9.2, Outreach during the Alternatives Development Process).

The public and agency involvement program includes the following efforts:

- Public involvement and outreach—informational materials, including fact sheets; informational and scoping meetings, including open house meetings, public and agency scoping meetings, meetings with individuals and groups, presentations, and briefings.
- Agency involvement—agency scoping meetings, interagency working group, meetings with agency representatives, and other agency consultation.
- Notification and circulation of the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS.
- Notification and circulation of the Revised Draft Supplemental EIR/Second Draft Supplemental EIS.
- Notification of publication of the Final Supplemental EIR/EIS.

The Authority posts meeting notices and public documents on its website:

[https://www.hsr.ca.gov/programs/environmental/eis\\_eir/draft\\_supplemental\\_merced\\_fresno.aspx](https://www.hsr.ca.gov/programs/environmental/eis_eir/draft_supplemental_merced_fresno.aspx). The Authority's website also includes information about the high-speed rail (HSR) program, the proposed HSR route, the Authority's Business Plans, newsletters, press releases, meetings, recent developments, 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 is to provide an opportunity for public comment, questions, or discussion.

The Authority posted the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS, the Revised Draft Supplemental EIR/Second Draft Supplemental EIS, this Final Supplemental EIR/EIS, all related technical appendices and links to pertinent technical reports on its website. In addition, materials (in English and Spanish) on how to participate during the public comment period and navigate the document are available online.

Throughout the alternatives development and environmental review processes, frequently asked questions included inquiries related to impacts on property, residences, agricultural lands and operations, circulation and access via local roads, and the process for selecting the final alignment.

When developing the Central Valley Wye alternatives, project staff also considered alternative alignments or design modifications that individuals and organizations had suggested. Outreach staff logged questions that could not be answered at public meetings for direct follow-up with the individual or organization that had inquired, or noted these items for discussion at future public meetings.

Questions were received via email, phone calls, public information meetings, and one-on-one discussions with landowners. Other commonly asked questions included impacts on school transportation and tax bases, and impacts from noise and vibration during construction and future rail operations. Where possible, project staff answered these and other questions, often referring them to the then forthcoming environmental analyses (in the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS and this Final Supplemental EIR/EIS) and informing the public of upcoming opportunities to comment. Those comments raised by the public have informed the preparation of the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS and this Final Supplemental EIR/EIS.

## 9.1 Environmental Justice Outreach

Outreach and engagement activities with environmental justice communities were initiated in September 2009 with the start of public involvement activities associated with the design and environmental review process for the Merced to Fresno Project alternatives and has continued throughout the design and environmental review processes associated with the Central Valley Wye alternatives (for more information, refer to Chapter 5, Environmental Justice). The purposes of the more recent outreach included obtaining meaningful participation and input, documenting the concerns of these communities, and retaining their comments as part of the public record so the analyses and conclusions accurately reflect the setting and potential impacts of the Central Valley Wye alternatives in those communities. Volume II, Appendix 5-A, Environmental Justice Outreach Plan, contains a list of environmental justice-related interest groups that have been engaged through outreach efforts.

Meetings were advertised in Spanish, and materials for public meetings hosted by the Authority were available in Spanish as well on the website. Spanish-speaking interpreters were available at all public information meetings.

For additional information about environmental justice outreach to minority and low-income populations, see Chapter 5. Table 9-1, which is provided at the end of this chapter, lists the past public involvement activities, including outreach to minority and low-income populations.

## 9.2 Outreach during the Alternatives Development and Analysis Process

The alternatives analysis process used conceptual planning and environmental and engineering information to identify feasible and practicable alternatives carried forward for environmental review and preliminary engineering design in this Final Supplemental EIR/EIS. The process of selecting the Central Valley Wye alternatives is described in Chapter 2, Alternatives. Public and agency input provided valuable information to assist in evaluating the alternatives. This section discusses the outreach that occurred during the alternatives development and analysis process for this Final Supplemental EIR/EIS.

### 9.2.1 Public Information Meetings and Materials during the Alternatives Development and Analysis Process

Community outreach and stakeholder input have been essential aspects of the environmental process for the Merced to Fresno Final EIR/EIS as well as this Final Supplemental EIR/EIS. In June 2012 the Authority held public outreach meetings, briefings, presentations, workshops, and webinars focused on the wye connection to inform the April 2013 *Merced to Fresno Section: Central Valley Wye Alternatives Supplemental Alternatives Analysis Report* (2013 Supplemental Alternatives Analysis Report) (Authority and FRA 2013a). These engagement efforts are listed in Table 9-1. In attendance were stakeholders, including landowners, farmers, residents,

organizations, public agencies, and elected officials, who expressed opinions on the Central Valley Wye alternatives. These events were held in Chowchilla, Merced, Le Grand, Fairmead, and Madera. At these events, stakeholders commented verbally, provided written information, and submitted questions on comment cards. The key themes expressed by participants about the range of Central Valley Wye alternatives, included:

- Preference for alignment along existing transportation corridors.
- Minimize impacts on the City of Chowchilla.
- Minimize impacts on valuable agricultural land, irrigation facilities, and agricultural operations.
- Minimize impacts on road closures for transportation of farming equipment, school district buses, and general community circulation.

In addition, some common areas of interest were expressed, such as the effects of road closures on traffic and property access and how the right-of-way process worked. Property owners voiced concerns about effects on land values and the relation and resulting effects of the various alignments on their own property, and requested maps showing the alternatives in detail. Many property owners had concerns regarding the potential impacts on agricultural land and operations in the region, and expressed an interest in an alignment that would minimize impacts on local residents, workers, and the community as a whole. Residents of Fairmead expressed concerns about impacts on their homes and on the Fairmead Elementary School. Interest was also expressed as to the potential impacts of alternatives on water wells and on water conveyance infrastructure, as well as potential noise concerns from passing trains.

### **9.2.2 Farm Bureau Working Group Meetings during the Alternatives Analysis Process**

The Authority and FRA commenced agency meetings early (2008) during the Merced to Fresno Final EIR/EIS preparation process. In 2013, the Authority began meeting regularly with the staff from the Merced and Madera County Farm Bureaus. This coordination continued with 20 meetings held between June 2013 and May 2018 with the Farm Bureau Working Group, composed of staff from these two farm bureaus, the Chowchilla Water District, and members of Preserve Our Heritage. The purpose of these working group meetings was to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas during the course of the study and receive comments from local stakeholders.

The Farm Bureau Working Group meetings provided input on the alternatives and information about local land and water use and potential impacts on agricultural and livestock operations. The results and findings of the alternative analysis were shared with the Farm Bureau Working Group throughout the process (see Table 9-1 for the dates of these meetings).

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

The Authority and FRA consulted with environmental resource agencies, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the State Water Resources Control Board, the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, and other agencies with jurisdiction over the Central Valley Wye alternatives. The meetings and project area tours provided an overview and review of the alternatives analysis process and presented recommendations. The primary feedback included information about the environmental permitting processes and site-specific knowledge. These meetings are listed in Table 9-1 at the end of this chapter.

Following completion of the 2013 Supplemental Alternatives Analysis Report, the Authority and FRA continued ongoing coordination with the USACE and the USEPA. This coordination included preparation of the *Supplemental Checkpoint B Summary Report in Support of the Merced to Fresno Section: Wye Alternatives Section 404(b)(1) Analysis and Draft Subsequent*

*Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Supplemental Checkpoint B Summary Report)* (Authority and FRA 2013b). The report was intended to assist the USACE and the USEPA in selecting the Central Valley Wye alternatives for further evaluation as part of Section 404 permitting pursuant to 404(b)(1) guidelines of the Clean Water Act.<sup>1</sup> The Supplemental Checkpoint B Summary Report evaluated 17 alternatives, and the Authority and FRA determined that 13 of the 17 Central Valley Wye alternatives would be eliminated from further environmental review (refer to Section 2.1.2.2, Consultation after the Merced to Fresno Final EIR/EIS, for further information).

Continued coordination between the Authority, the FRA, the USACE, and the USEPA resulted in further refinements to the Central Valley Wye alternatives. In 2014, the Authority and FRA prepared two addenda to the Supplemental Checkpoint B Summary Report: the *Report Addendum for the September 10, 2013 Checkpoint B Summary Report (May 2014)* (Authority and FRA 2014a) and the *Second Report Addendum to the September 10, 2013 Checkpoint B Summary Report (August 2014)* (Authority and FRA 2014b). During preparation of these two reports, the Authority and FRA continued to refine the Central Valley Wye alternatives, ultimately withdrawing two of the four alternatives and adding one alternative to carry forward for detailed environmental review.

In August and September 2014, respectively, the USEPA and USACE concurred with the Authority and FRA on the alternatives to be evaluated in this Final Supplemental EIR/EIS: SR 152 (North) to Road 13 Wye Alternative, SR 152 (North) to Road 19 Wye Alternative, and Avenue 21 to Road 13 Wye Alternative. The Authority and FRA continued to conduct public outreach with local stakeholders, holding more than 50 agency and public meetings since the alternatives were refined and reduced in number in September 2014. This effort produced additional information about the Central Valley Wye alternatives and informed further refinements to the alternatives proposed to be carried forward or withdrawn. As a result of this additional stakeholder outreach and upon review of improved mapping documentation for the various alignments, a previously considered and dismissed alternative, SR 152 (North) to Road 11 Wye, was reconsidered, reintroduced, and ultimately carried forward for analysis. To support this decision, the Authority and FRA prepared the *Third Report Addendum to the September 10, 2013 Supplemental Checkpoint B Summary Report (November 2016)* (Authority and FRA 2016). The USACE and the USEPA concurred with adding the SR 152 (North) to Road 11 Wye Alternative in December 2016.

### 9.3 Outreach during Development of Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS

With the selection of the four alternatives, the Authority moved forward with preparation of the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS.

Section 2.1.2, The Wye Connection, provides details of the approval of the Merced to Fresno Section: Hybrid Alternative as the preferred alternative evaluated in the Merced to Fresno Final EIR/EIS. The Authority's 2012 approval, however, deferred making a decision on the preferred wye design option to allow for additional environmental analysis to be completed.

The public and agency outreach associated with preparation of the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS as well as this Final Supplemental EIR/EIS continues the public discussion of the wye design options. Throughout this process, the Authority has continued to hold meetings to update and obtain feedback from the public and meet with federal, state, and local agencies.

The following subsections provide details of these activities.

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<sup>1</sup> In December 2010, the Authority, FRA, the USEPA, and the USACE signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for integrating NEPA, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and Section 408 Rivers and Harbors Act Section 14 processes for the HSR project. The MOU requires completion of three milestones (Checkpoints A, B, and C) prior to submission of Section 404 permit applications for each section of the HSR project, as appropriate. Checkpoint B defines the range of alternatives for consideration.

### 9.3.1 Public Information Materials and Meetings

Public information meetings were held during preparation of the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS to inform the public about the environmental analysis, alternative refinements, recommendations for the preferred alternative, and the status of the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS throughout the preparation phase. In addition, these meetings provided information on various HSR project components and served as forums for obtaining feedback. The public information meetings included brief presentations and project information materials (on display and in fact sheets), and project staff were available to answer questions. Meetings were announced through direct mail to those who requested involvement in and notification of activities related to the Central Valley Wye alternatives, advertisements in local newspapers, and postings on the Authority's website: [https://www.hsr.ca.gov/programs/environmental/eis\\_eir/draft\\_supplemental\\_merced\\_fresno.aspx](https://www.hsr.ca.gov/programs/environmental/eis_eir/draft_supplemental_merced_fresno.aspx). Various publications and materials were also made available on this website, including the *Merced to Fresno Section: Central Valley Wye High-Speed Rail Fact Sheet, Permit to Enter Process, "Your Property, Your High-Speed Rail Project."*

The Authority also participated in additional public meetings hosted by other agencies to provide project information and obtain feedback. The places and dates of these meetings are listed in Table 9-1 at the end of this chapter.

### 9.3.2 Tribal Coordination Meetings

The Authority coordinated with Native American tribal representatives during coordination meetings and a project tour. Multiple tribes participated in a July 16, 2014 Tribal Coordination meeting. Other tribal representatives participated in a tour of the Central Valley Wye alternatives on August 28, 2014. Table 9-1 at the end of this chapter lists dates and locations of these meetings. Section 3.17, Cultural Resources, includes detailed information on coordination with Native American tribes. Additionally, Volume II, Appendix 3.17-C, Tribal Outreach and Consultation, provides a summary of the consultation conducted by the Authority for the HSR Section 106 Programmatic Agreement, including tribal outreach and consultation for the Central Valley Wye alternatives.

For projects that issue a Notice of Preparation after July 1, 2015, Assembly Bill 52 (Chapter 532, Statutes of 2014) requires lead agencies to offer Native American tribes with an interest in tribal cultural resources located within their jurisdiction the opportunity to consult on CEQA documents. Because the Notice of Preparation was issued prior to July 1, 2015, the Central Valley Wye alternatives are not subject to Assembly Bill 52 tribal consultation requirements under CEQA.

### 9.3.3 Agency Meetings and Consultation

The Authority consulted with federal, state, and local agencies under NEPA and with trustee and responsible agencies under CEQA regarding specific resources under the jurisdiction of these agencies as provided in Table 9-1.<sup>2</sup> Additional information on coordination efforts are described Section 3.7, Biological Resources and Wetlands; Section 3.12, Socioeconomics and Communities; and Chapter 5. Table 9-1 also provides dates and places of meetings with other interested federal, state, and local agencies that were also consulted throughout the process.

## 9.4 Notification and Circulation of Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS

Notices regarding the availability and separate CEQA and NEPA circulations of the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS were provided pursuant to CEQA and NEPA requirements in both English and Spanish. These notices included publication of an announcement in local newspapers that have general circulation in areas potentially affected by the Central Valley Wye alternatives. The announcements described the availability of the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS, the times and locations of one open-house public meeting and two public hearings, locations where the

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<sup>2</sup> Three federal agencies are defined as Cooperating Agencies as part of this NEPA review process: the USACE, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Surface Transportation Board.

document could be viewed, and the period during which public comment would be received. Letters and notices of availability were made available in English and Spanish. Letters and notices of availability were also mailed to those within a 300-foot buffer of the project footprints for all Central Valley Wye alternatives, which is inclusive of temporary and permanent impacts associated with each Central Valley Wye alternative. In addition, letters and notices were mailed to additional stakeholders who had indicated their interest in the project and had requested to be kept informed. Emails were also sent to an email distribution list composed of emails collected from public commenters and public information meeting attendees who provided an email address and asked to be added to the project mailing list. Separate emails were also sent to local and regional elected officials in the Central Valley.

The Authority published a notice of availability for the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS for CEQA circulation on May 3, 2019, indicating a 48-day public review period ending on June 20, 2019. The notice advised of an open-house public meeting, which was held at Fairmead Elementary School on Wednesday May 15, 2019, as well as of a public hearing that was held at the Little Theater in Chowchilla on Wednesday June 5, 2019.

The USEPA published a notice of availability for the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS in the *Federal Register* on September 13, 2019, indicating a 45-day public review period ending on October 28, 2019. Pursuant to the NEPA Assignment Memorandum of Understanding (FRA and State of California 2019), the Authority convened a public hearing held on Tuesday, October 1, 2019.

The Authority published a notice of availability for the Revised Draft Supplemental EIR/Second Draft Supplemental EIS, Biological Resources Analysis on March 13, 2020, indicating a 45-day public review period ending on April 27, 2020. Also on March 13, 2020, the USEPA published a related notice of availability in the *Federal Register*. No public hearings or meetings were associated with this document's publication.

Additional notices included for each of the three above circulations included:

- Notices of completion indicating the availability of the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS were filed with the State Clearinghouse and sent to state agencies.
- Notices of availability were also displayed at the offices of the County Clerks for Merced, Madera, Fresno, and Stanislaus Counties.

The Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS (and Revised Draft Supplemental EIR/Second Draft Supplemental EIS) were sent to federal, state, and local agencies, regional transportation agencies, and organizations and persons who had expressed an interest in the project. Each was made available on the Authority's website ([www.hsr.ca.gov](http://www.hsr.ca.gov)), on CD upon request, and on the USEPA's online EIS Database at: <https://cdxnodengn.epa.gov/cdx-enepa-public/action/eis/search>. Printed and electronic copies were placed at public libraries, Authority offices, and county clerk offices. Public hearing dates and locations also were posted on the Authority's website.<sup>3</sup>

Over all three public review periods noted above, the Authority received a total of 82 comment submittals through a combination of letters, e-mails, comment cards at public meetings/hearings, and oral comments (court reporter) provided at the CEQA public hearing. Of the 82 submissions, 5 indicated support for the project or a specific alternative, 23 expressed opposition to the project or a specific alternative, and the remaining 54 did not state a clear preference regarding the project or a specific alternative. These 82 submissions yielded a total of 731 discrete comments on the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS.

The greatest number of comments were received from local agencies, particularly the Wye Madera County Task Force, the City of Chowchilla (also part of the Wye Madera County Task Force), and local school districts. These agencies commented on the potential for the alternatives

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<sup>3</sup> Please refer to Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS Chapter 10, Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS Distribution, for a complete distribution list for that document. Chapter 10, Final Supplemental EIR/EIS Distribution, of this Final Supplemental EIR/EIS has been revised to reflect updates for the present distribution.

to have socioeconomic and fiscal impacts; some of the comments urged the Authority to select Madera County as the location for the HSR system's heavy maintenance facility. In response to these comments, the Authority conducted several in-person review workshops with the Wye Madera County Task Force and school districts to go over key comments raised by these parties and prospective resolution of outstanding concerns.

A substantial portion of comments were also received from people living in the communities of Fairmead and Chowchilla, including those who own or operate farms in the area. These commenters expressed concern about effects on agricultural operations and infrastructure, particularly irrigation infrastructure.

**Table 9-1 Public and Agency Meetings**

Organization/Individual	Date	Topic
Merced County Farm Bureau, Madera County Farm Bureau, and Kole Upton	6/20/2012	Coordination Meeting
City of Chowchilla	9/26/2012	HSR Briefing
Central Valley Rails to Trails Meeting	11/20/2012	HSR Briefing
Central Valley Rail Policy Working Group meeting/SJRCC	11/30/2012	HSR Discussion
Kole Upton, Representative of Preserve Our Heritage	1/9/2013	HSR Presentation and Discussion
City of Chowchilla	1/15/2013	HSR Briefing
City of Chowchilla	1/17/2013	HSR Briefing
Madera County Supervisor Max Rodriguez and Lazy K Ranch	1/22/2013	HSR Briefing and Discussion
Authority Board of Directors Meeting	1/23/2013	Project Update Presentation
Fagundes Dairy	1/25/2013	HSR Discussion
Merced City Council	2/4/2013	HSR Briefing and Discussion
Dan Lieberman, District Director for State Senator Leland Yee	2/8/2013	HSR Briefing
Fred Fagundes, Preserve Our Heritage, Merced County Farm Bureau	2/8/2013	HSR Briefing and Discussion
Fred Fagundes, Judge Brigby, Madera County Planning and Roads Department	2/20/2013	HSR Briefing and Discussion
Madera County Roads Department	2/27/2013	Coordination Meeting
CertainTeed Corporation	3/4/2013	HSR Briefing and Discussion
Assemblyman Frank Bigelow, District 5	3/14/2013	HSR Briefing and Discussion
City of Chowchilla	3/19/2013	HSR Briefing and Discussion
Merced County Farm Bureau	3/19/2013	HSR Briefing and Discussion
Madera County Farm Bureau	3/19/2013	HSR Briefing and Discussion
MCAG Executive Director Marjie Kirn	3/19/2013	HSR Briefing and Discussion
Central Valley Wye Community Meeting	3/20/2013	Community Meeting, Presentation, Open House and Q&A

Organization/Individual	Date	Topic
Lazy K Ranch	3/20/2013	HSR Briefing and Discussion
Congressman Costa's staff, Merced College President Taylor, Madera County Supervisor Farinelli	3/21/2013	HSR Presentation and Discussion
Madera County Transportation Commission	3/21/2013	Coordination Meeting
Congressional Central Valley Wye Alignment Tour (Congressman Denman, Congressman Costa)	3/26/2013	Tour and Discussion with Congressional Staff
Central Valley Wye Community Meeting	3/27/2013	Community Presentation and Open House
Preserve our Heritage	3/27/2013	HSR Briefing and Discussion
Merced County Farm Bureau	3/27/2013	HSR Briefing and Discussion
Madera County Farm Bureau	3/27/2013	HSR Briefing and Discussion
Chowchilla Elementary and High School Districts	3/27/2013	HSR Update and Discussion
Authority Board of Directors Meeting	4/4/2013	Presentation on the Central Valley Wye Alternatives
Merced County Supervisor Pedrozo	4/8/2013	Update Elected Officials on HSR and Q&A
Merced County Supervisor Pedrozo, Marchini Farms	4/8/2013	HSR Briefing and Discussion
Merced County Farm Bureau	4/9/2013	HSR Project Update and Q&A
Madera County Farm Bureau	4/9/2013	HSR Project Update and Q&A
Madera County Staff	4/16/2013	Coordination Meeting
USACE, USEPA, USFWS, NOAA/NMFS, USBR, CDFW, SWRCB, CVFPB	4/17/2013	HSR Presentation and Discussion
Minturn Nut Company, Marchini Farms, Merced County Supervisor Pedrozo	4/22/2013	HSR Briefing and Discussion
CertainTeed Corporation	4/25/2013	HSR Briefing and Discussion
Lower San Joaquin Levee District	5/1/2013	Coordination Meeting
Madera County Flood Control	5/1/2013	Coordination Meeting
Dos Palos Cotton Gin	5/1/2013	HSR Briefing and Discussion
Fairmead Community, Friends of Fairmead	5/5/2013	HSR Update and Q&A
Chowchilla Developer	5/9/2013	HSR Briefing and Discussion
Fagundes Ranch, Preserve Our Heritage, Fagundes Brothers	5/10/2013	Overview of Central Valley Working Group and Discussion
Local Farm Operators	5/10/2013	HSR Briefing and Discussion
City of Chowchilla	5/15/2013	Coordination Meeting
Almond Tree Hulling Company	5/15/2013	HSR Project Update and Q&A
Greenhills Homeowners Association, Executive Board	5/15/2013	HSR Project Update and Q&A
UPRR	5/23/2013	HSR Project Update and Q&A



Organization/Individual	Date	Topic
Fairmead Community, Friends of Fairmead	5/30/2013	HSR Project Update and Q&A
Preserve Our Heritage, Fagundes Ranch, Fagundes Brothers	5/31/2013	HSR Project Update and Q&A
Preserve Our Heritage, Fagundes Brothers, Greenhills Homeowners Association	6/10/2013	HSR Briefing and Discussion
Chowchilla City Council	6/11/2013	HSR Presentation and Q&A
Chowchilla School District Superintendents	6/12/2013	HSR Presentation and Q&A
Merced County Farm Bureau/Madera County Farm Bureau	6/12/2013	Farm Bureau Working Group Briefing and Discussion
Fagundes Brothers	6/14/2013	HSR Briefing and Discussion
Val Lopez (Amah Mutsun Tribe)	6/18/2013	Tribal Coordination Meeting
Merced County Farm Bureau/Madera County Farm Bureau	7/8/2013	Farm Bureau Working Group Briefing and Discussion
Merced Public Works	7/25/2013	Coordination Meeting
Merced County Farm Bureau/Madera County Farm Bureau	8/14/2013	Farm Bureau Working Group Briefing and Discussion
Caltrans District 6	8/14/2013	Coordination Meeting
UPRR	8/20/2013	HSR Project Update and Q&A
Merced County Farm Bureau/Madera County Farm Bureau	10/9/2013	Farm Bureau Working Group Briefing and Discussion
Merced County Supervisor John Pedrozo and Merced County Staff	10/10/2013	Update Elected Officials on HSR and Q&A
Tribal Coordination Meeting with Amah Mutsun Tribe	10/25/2013	Meeting to discuss the San Jose to Merced Section, updates to HSR and Q&A.
Teleconference with USEPA and USACE	11/12/2013	Coordination Meeting
USEPA and USACE Agency Tour	11/19/2013	Tour and Agency Coordination Discussion
USEPA and USACE Teleconference	11/26/2013	Coordination Meeting
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation	12/2/2013	HSR Presentation and Discussion
USEPA and USACE Teleconference	12/3/2013	Coordination Meeting
Merced County Farm Bureau/Madera County Farm Bureau	12/18/2013	Farm Bureau Working Group Briefing and Discussion
Greenhills Estates Property Owners, Chowchilla City Manager Lewis, Chowchilla Mayor Walker, and Madera County Supervisor Rogers	1/15/2014	HSR Presentation and Discussion
Madera County Public Works Staff	1/23/2014	HSR Presentation and Q&A
Caltrans District 10	1/27/2014	HSR Presentation and Q&A
Caltrans District 6	1/28/2014	HSR Presentation and Q&A

Organization/Individual	Date	Topic
Merced County Farm Bureau/Madera County Farm Bureau	3/5/2014	Farm Bureau Working Group Briefing and Discussion
City of Chowchilla	3/5/2014	Meeting to discuss potential noise and vibration impacts in Chowchilla
Caltrans District 6	5/29/2014	Proposed HSR alignment crossings for SR 99/SR 152 Interchange
Merced County Farm Bureau/Madera County Farm Bureau, Preserve Our Heritage Members, and Chowchilla Water District Staff	6/5/2014	Farm Bureau Working Group Briefing and Discussion
City of Chowchilla and Caltrans District 7	6/5/2014	Coordination Meeting
Native American Tribes in Central Valley Wye Area	7/16/2014	Tribal Coordination Meeting
Central Valley Wye Area Federal Agency Tour	7/17/2014	HSR Presentation, Tour and Q&A
Tribal Representatives in the Central Valley Wye Area	8/28/2014	Tribal Coordination Meeting and tour of the alignments
Merced County Farm Bureau/Madera County Farm Bureau	9/25/2014	Farm Bureau Working Group Briefing and Discussion
Chowchilla Water District	1/5/2015	HSR Briefing and Discussion
City of Chowchilla	1/6/2015	HSR Briefing and Discussion
City of Madera Staff	1/6/2015	HSR Briefing and Discussion
County of Madera Public Works	1/8/2015	HSR Briefing and Discussion
Henry Miller Reclamation District	1/8/2015	HSR Briefing and Discussion
San Luis Canal Company	1/8/2015	HSR Briefing and Discussion
Merced County Farm Bureau/Madera County Farm Bureau	1/8/2015	Farm Bureau Working Group Briefing and Discussion
Central Valley Flood Protection Board	1/15/2015	HSR Briefing and Discussion
Merced County	1/16/2015	Coordination Meeting
Central Valley Wye Community Information Meeting	1/20/2015	Public Presentation, Open House and Discussion
Central Valley Wye Community Information Meeting	1/21/2015	Public Presentation, Open House and Discussion
Central California Irrigation District	1/26/2015	HSR Briefing and Discussion
PG&E	2/4/2015	Interconnection Coordination
Henry Miller Reclamation District	2/10/2015	HSR Briefing and Discussion
City of Chowchilla	2/24/2015	HSR Briefing and Discussion
Merced County Public Works Department	4/8/2015	Coordination Meeting
Merced County Farm Bureau/Madera County Farm Bureau, Preserve Our Heritage Members, and Chowchilla Water District Staff	6/4/2015	Farm Bureau Working Group Briefing and Discussion

Organization/Individual	Date	Topic
Lower San Joaquin Levee District	6/12/2015	Coordination Meeting
Chowchilla Water District	6/30/2015	Coordination Meeting
Fairmead Community, Friends of Fairmead	6/30/2015	HSR Project Update and Q&A
Madera County Roads Department	7/2/2015	Coordination Meeting
Madera County Flood Control	7/2/2015	Coordination Meeting
Fairmead Community, Friends of Fairmead	7/14/2015	HSR Update and Q&A
Chowchilla Elementary School District	9/4/2015	HSR Update and Discussion
USACE	9/22/2015	Section 408 Preliminary Determination Meeting
Fairmead Community, Friends of Fairmead	12/12/2015	HSR Update and Q&A
USACE	12/22/2015	Section 408 Preliminary Determination Meeting
Merced County Farm Bureau/Madera County Farm Bureau	2/23/2016	Farm Bureau Working Group Briefing and Discussion
USACE	2/24/2016	Section 408 Preliminary Determination Meeting
USFWS, CDFW, USFS, USACE, NOAA/NMFS	3/16/2016	Central Valley Regulatory Agency Meeting, Biological Assessment <sup>1</sup>
USEPA, USFWS, CDFW, USACE, USBR, SWRCB, NOAA/NMFS	4/20/2016	Central Valley Regulatory Agency Meeting, Biological Resources and Wetlands Technical Report <sup>1</sup>
Merced County Farm Bureau/Madera County Farm Bureau	4/29/2016	Farm Bureau Working Group Briefing and Discussion
USEPA, USACE, USBR, STB, SWRCB, CDFW, USFWS, NOAA/NMFS	5/18/2016	Central Valley Regulatory Agency Meeting, Hydrology and Water Resources Technical Report <sup>1</sup>
USEPA, USACE, STB, SWRCB, CDFW, USFWS, NOAA/NMFS	6/15/2016	Central Valley Regulatory Agency Meeting, Environmental Justice Outreach <sup>1</sup>
Fairmead Community, Friends of Fairmead	6/16/2016	HSR Update and Q&A
USEPA, USACE, USBR, SWRCB, CDFW, USFWS, NOAA/NMFS, STB	7/11/2016	Central Valley Regulatory Agency Meeting, Alternatives <sup>1</sup>
Fairmead Community, Friends of Fairmead	7/14/2016	HSR Update and Q&A
USACE	7/19/2016	Section 408 Preliminary Determination Meeting
Fresno-Madera Fire and Life Safety	7/20/2016	HSR Coordination and Update
Merced County Farm Bureau/Madera County Farm Bureau	7/21/2016	Farm Bureau Working Group Briefing and Discussion
Caltrans District 10	7/29/2016	HSR Update and Discussion
Madera County	8/2/2016	HSR Coordination and Update

Organization/Individual	Date	Topic
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation	8/10/2016	HSR Briefing and Discussion
City of Chowchilla	8/10/2016	HSR Briefing and Discussion
Merced County	8/12/2016	HSR Briefing and Discussion
Chowchilla Elementary and Middle School District	8/26/2016	HSR Update and Discussion
Merced County Farm Bureau/Madera County Farm Bureau	9/8/2016	Farm Bureau Working Group Briefing and Discussion
Fairmead Community, Friends of Fairmead	9/8/2016	HSR Project Update and Q&A
USEPA, USACE, USBR, SWRCB, CDFW, USFWS, NOAA/NMFS	9/21/2016	Central Valley Regulatory Agency Meeting, Update <sup>1</sup>
Chowchilla Union High School District	9/23/2016	HSR Project Update and Discussion
USEPA, USACE, USBR, SWRCB, CDFW, USFWS, NOAA/NMFS	10/19/2016	Central Valley Regulatory Agency Meeting, Draft <sup>1</sup>
Central Valley Wye Community Meeting	12/8/2016	Community Meeting, Presentation, Open House and Q&A
USEPA, USACE, USBR, STB, SWRCB, CDFW, USFWS, NOAA/NMFS	12/21/2016	Central Valley Regulatory Agency Meeting, Checkpoint C <sup>1</sup>
City of Chowchilla, Friends of Fairmead	1/5/2017	HSR Project Update and Discussion
Fairmead Community, Friends of Fairmead	1/5/2017	HSR Project Update and Discussion
Authority Board of Directors Meeting	1/10/2017	Presentation of the Central Valley Wye Preferred Alternative
Merced County Farm Bureau/Madera County Farm Bureau, Preserve Our Heritage Members, Chowchilla Water District Staff, Alview Dairyland Union School District Staff	1/12/2017	Farm Bureau Working Group Briefing and Discussion
USEPA, USACE, USBR, STB, SWRCB, CDFW, USFWS, NOAA/NMFS	1/18/2017	Central Valley Regulatory Agency Meeting, Mitigation <sup>1</sup>
City of Chowchilla, Caltrans District 6, Private Developer	1/27/2017	Discussion regarding improvements at the SR 152 and Road 17 grade separation; design and proposed development at SR 152 and SR 99
Fairmead Community, Friends of Fairmead	3/22/2017	HSR Project Update and Discussion
USEPA, USACE, USBR, STB, SWRCB, CDFW, USFWS, NOAA/NMFS	4/19/2017	Central Valley Regulatory Agency Meeting, Mitigation <sup>1</sup>
Merced County Farm Bureau/Madera County Farm Bureau	4/20/2017	Farm Bureau Working Group Briefing and Discussion
Fairmead Community, Friends of Fairmead	4/24/2017	Discussion regarding visual renditions of HSR within the community of Fairmead, including at the Avenue 23, Road 20 crossing, and the rise of the HSR grade at Road 19 as it crosses SR 99

Organization/Individual	Date	Topic
Chowchilla Elementary School District	5/9/2017	HSR Project update and discussion regarding mitigation measures for Fairmead Elementary School
USEPA, USACE, STB, SWRCB, CDFW, USFWS	5/17/2017	Central Valley Regulatory Agency Meeting, Environmental Mitigation Management and Assessment Overview <sup>1</sup>
Merced County Farm Bureau/Madera County Farm Bureau	6/15/2017	Farm Bureau Working Group Briefing and Discussion
USEPA, USACE, STB, SWRCB, CDFW, USFWS	6/21/2017	Central Valley Regulatory Agency Meeting, Update and Sustainability Overview <sup>1</sup>
USEPA, USACE, CDFW	7/21/2017	Central Valley Regulatory Agency Meeting, Update <sup>1</sup>
USEPA, USACE, USBR, STB, SWRCB, CDFW, USFWS	8/16/2017	Central Valley Regulatory Agency Meeting, Update and National Environmental Policy Act Assignment Overview <sup>1</sup>
Fairmead Community and Friends <sup>2</sup>	7/20/2017	Discussion regarding mitigation measures in Fairmead
Merced County Farm Bureau/Madera County Farm Bureau	9/7/2017	Farm Bureau Working Group Briefing and HSR Project Update
Merced County Farm Bureau/Madera County Farm Bureau	11/14/2017	Farm Bureau Working Group Briefing and HSR Project Update
USEPA, USACE, USBR, STB, SWRCB, CDFW, USFWS	11/15/2017	Central Valley Regulatory Agency Meeting, Update <sup>1</sup>
USEPA, USACE, USBR, STB, SWRCB, CDFW, USFWS	1/17/2018	Central Valley Regulatory Agency Meeting, Update <sup>1</sup>
USEPA, USACE, USBR, STB, SWRCB, CDFW, USFWS	3/21/2018	Central Valley Regulatory Agency Meeting, Update <sup>1</sup>
Fairmead Community and Friends <sup>2</sup>	4/4/2018	Discussion regarding mitigation measures in Fairmead
USEPA, USACE, USBR, STB	4/18/2018	Central Valley Regulatory Agency Meeting, Checkpoint C and Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS <sup>1</sup>
USACE, USEPA, USFWS, NOAA/NMFS, USBR, CDFW, SWRCB, CVFPB	4/24/2018	The San Joaquin River Restoration Program Coordination Meeting
Merced County Farm Bureau/Madera County Farm Bureau	5/1/2018	Farm Bureau Working Group Briefing and HSR Project Update
USEPA, USACE, STB	5/16/2018	Central Valley Regulatory Agency Meeting, Feedback – Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS Review <sup>1</sup>
USEPA, USACE, USBR, STB	5/31/2018	Responses to Comments on the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS
North Valley Yokuts Tribe (Katherine Erolinda Perez)	5/7/2019	Meeting to discuss project overview and specific project sections of concern to tribe

Organization/Individual	Date	Topic
Wye Madera County Task Force	5 meetings from July – October 2019	Discussion of Wye Madera County Task Force's comments on the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS
Chowchilla School Districts	3 meetings from August – October 2019	Discussion of the school districts' comments on the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS
USEPA, USACE, USBR, STB, SWRCB, CDFW, USFWS	10/16/2019	Central Valley Regulatory Agency Meeting, Update <sup>1</sup>
USEPA, USACE, USBR, STB, SWRCB, CDFW, USFWS	11/20/2019	Central Valley Regulatory Agency Meeting, Update <sup>1</sup>
Caltrans District 6 and 10	12/11/2019	Discussion of the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS
USEPA, USACE, USBR, STB, SWRCB, CDFW, USFWS	12/18/2019	Central Valley Regulatory Agency Meeting, Update <sup>1</sup>
Merced County Farm Bureau/Madera County Farm Bureau; Preserve our Heritage	2/21/2020	Farm Bureau Working Group Briefing and HSR Project Update
Central California Irrigation District	3/11/2020	Discussion of the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS
USEPA, USACE, USBR, STB, Caltrans District 6 and 10	5/1/2020	Discussion of forthcoming Final Supplemental EIR/EIS
USEPA, USACE, USBR, STB, SWRCB, CDFW, USFWS	5/20/2020	Central Valley Regulatory Agency Meeting, Update <sup>1</sup>
Chowchilla Elementary School District	6/9/2020	Discussion of the school district's comments on the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS
City of Chowchilla	6/11/2020	Discussion of the city's comments on the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS
Central California Irrigation District	6/16/2020	Discussion of the district's comments on the Revised Draft Supplemental EIR/Second Draft Supplemental EIS
Chowchilla Elementary School District	6/16/2020	Discussion of the school district's comments on the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS
Chowchilla Elementary School District	6/19/2020	Discussion of the school district's comments on the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS
Merced County Farm Bureau/Madera County Farm Bureau; Preserve our Heritage	6/19/2020	Farm Bureau Working Group Briefing and HSR Project Update
Chowchilla Elementary School District	6/23/2020	Discussion of the school district's comments on the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS

Source: Authority, 2020

<sup>1</sup> The Authority has organized the Central Valley Regulatory Agency meetings to obtain agency input on technical reports prior to release of the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS. Resource topics of agency concern are presented and discussed in a workshop format on a monthly basis.

<sup>2</sup> Friends of Fairmead and Fairmead Community and Friends are the same organization.

Caltrans = California Department of Transportation

CDFW = California Department of Fish and Wildlife

CVFPB = Central Valley Flood Protection Board

EIR = Environmental Impact Report

EIS = Environmental Impact Statement

FRA = Federal Railroad Administration  
PG&E = Pacific Gas and Electric  
HSR = high-speed rail  
MCAG = Merced County Association of Governments  
NMFS = National Marine Fisheries Service  
NOAA = National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Q&A = question and answer  
SJRCC = San Joaquin Regional Conservation Corps  
SR = State Route  
STB = Surface Transportation Board  
SWRCB = State Water Resources Control Board  
UPRR = Union Pacific Railroad  
USACE = U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
USBR = U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
USEPA = U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service