California High-Speed Rail: Los Angeles to Anaheim Project Section

Explanatory Cover Note: Final Environmental Impact Report and Proposed Combined Final Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision

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This Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Proposed Combined Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Record of Decision (ROD) is prepared in compliance with specific environmental laws, and is intended to be used to support decision-making consistent with those laws for the Los Angeles to Anaheim Project Section (project section) of the California High-Speed Rail (HSR) System, as explained below.

To evaluate the potential impacts and effects of the project section, the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) prepared a Draft EIR/EIS, which is a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)/ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) joint document, for which the Authority was the CEQA and NEPA lead agency. Under both CEQA and NEPA, the Authority issued the Draft EIR/EIS for public comment on December 5, 2025. The comment period closed on February 3, 2026. To prepare a final environmental document, the Authority made the decision to split the CEQA and NEPA approvals.

As part of the Final EIR and Proposed Combined Final EIS/ROD, the Authority is publishing an errata in Chapter 16, titled “Corrections and Additions to the Draft Report.” Chapter 16 describes exactly where text has been added, revised, or removed from the Draft EIR/EIS. Therefore, both the CEQA and NEPA decision documents use the Draft EIR/EIS together with the errata content for the Final EIR and Proposed Final EIS.

National Environmental Policy Act

Under NEPA, the Authority will be issuing a Combined Final EIS/ROD for the project section should the Authority Board decide to authorize the Authority’s Chief Executive Officer to execute the ROD. As described below, the Combined Final EIS/ROD will consist of the Final EIS appended to the ROD.

The Authority is making the project section Proposed Combined Final EIS/ROD available to the public prior to the Authority Board’s October 27, 2026, meeting to comply with California’s open public meeting act.[1] The Proposed Combined Final EIS/ROD does not constitute the final environmental and decision document for NEPA.[2] The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project have been carried out by the State of California pursuant to 23 U.S. Code (U.S.C.) 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated July 22, 2024, and executed by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the State of California. Accordingly, the Authority is now the NEPA lead agency.

Under NEPA, the Draft EIR/EIS stated on the signature page that “The California High-Speed Rail Authority, in its capacity as NEPA lead agency, may issue a single document that consists of the Final

[1] Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, California Government Code Section 11120 et seq.
[2] As discussed below, if the Final EIR is certified by the Authority’s Board and the project approved, that certification and approval will be the final step in the CEQA process, notwithstanding that additional steps may remain for the NEPA process.

Environmental Impact Statement and ROD pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 304a(b) and 23 U.S.C. 139(n)(2) unless the California High-Speed Rail Authority determines that statutory criteria or practicability considerations preclude issuance of such a combined document." As noted, the Authority has determined that issuance of a combined document is legally permissible and practicable. Therefore, the Authority is issuing this Proposed Combined Final EIS/ROD as the lead NEPA agency.

The Final EIS will use an errata sheet approach as authorized by 23 U.S.C. 139(n)(1) and 49 U.S.C. 304a(a) and the FRA's implementing policies and procedures for NEPA (49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 771). Under these provisions, the use of errata sheets in lieu of rewriting and reprinting a Draft EIS is appropriate when comments received on a Draft EIS are minor, and the Authority's responses to those comments are limited to factual corrections or explanations of why the comments do not warrant further response.

The ROD is the Authority's approval under NEPA, as NEPA lead agency, of the project section. In addition to a summary of potential effects and all identified mitigation measures, the ROD includes the findings for:

- The selected alternative and whether that alternative best serves the purpose and need for this project and minimizes economic, social, and environmental impacts
- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act
- Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966
- Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act
- General Conformity pursuant to 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 93 Subpart B
- Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act
- Wetlands pursuant to U.S. Presidential Executive Order 11990
- Floodplains pursuant to U.S. Presidential Executive Order 11988

California Environmental Quality Act

Under CEQA, the Authority is issuing a Final EIR for the project section. As noted above, following the circulation of a Draft EIR/EIS for the project section and in preparation to issue a final environmental document addressing the comments received during the Draft EIR/EIS comment period, the Authority made the decision to split the CEQA and NEPA approvals. Under NEPA, the Authority is issuing a Proposed Combined Final EIS/ROD.

The Authority Board will review and consider whether to certify the Final EIR for compliance with CEQA at its meeting on October 27–28, 2026. If it does certify the Final EIR, the Final EIR will be considered the final environmental document for CEQA. The Authority Board will also consider whether to approve the project (Shared Passenger Track Alternative A), in its capacity as state lead agency only. Such approval would complete the CEQA process for the project section.

Final Environmental Impact Report and Proposed Combined Final Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision Structure

The Draft EIR/EIS consisted of three Volumes: Volume 1, "Report"; Volume 2, "Technical Appendices"; and Volume 3, "Alignment Plans." As noted above, in lieu of preparing a traditional Final EIR/EIS that would rewrite the entire Draft document, the Authority instead has prepared an errata document, in Chapter 16, called "Corrections and Additions to the Draft Report." For ease of reference, the Final EIR and Proposed Combined Final EIS/ROD may be referred to as the "Final EIR/EIS." The Final EIR/EIS is using an errata sheet approach that makes minor edits to the Draft EIR/EIS volumes and adds the comments and the responses to the comments received on the Draft EIR/EIS. To facilitate review of the compiled document, the Authority has also placed summary errata sheets prior to each chapter/section of

the electronic Draft EIR/EIS to remind readers where corrections were made to the record. Public comments and comment responses have been included in Volume 4 of the Final EIR/EIS.

The Final EIR and Proposed Combined EIS/ROD uses errata sheets to present corrections made to the Draft EIR/EIS. This outline depicts the overall compiled final environmental document, including components of the Draft EIR/EIS. The Final EIR and Proposed Combined EIS/ROD consists of the following materials; items in bold and with an asterisk (*) reflect those new documents prepared or revised in full since the Draft EIR/EIS:

Final EIR and Proposed Final EIS

- **Front Matter***
  - **Cover Page and Explanatory Cover Page***
  - **Title and Signature Pages (CEQA-specific and NEPA-specific)***
  - **Preface***
  - **Table of Contents***
  - **Summary***
- Volume 1: Report
  - Chapter 1, Project Purpose, Need, and Objectives
  - Chapter 2, Alternatives
  - Chapter 3, Affected Environment, Environmental Consequences, and Mitigation Measures
    - Section 3.1, Introduction
    - Section 3.2, Transportation
    - Section 3.3, Air Quality and Global Climate Change
    - Section 3.4, Noise and Vibration
    - Section 3.5, Electromagnetic Fields and Electromagnetic Interference
    - Section 3.6, Public Utilities and Energy
    - Section 3.7, Biological and Aquatic Resources
    - Section 3.8, Hydrology and Water Resources
    - Section 3.9, Geology, Soils, Seismicity, and Paleontological Resources
    - Section 3.10, Hazardous Materials and Wastes
    - Section 3.11, Safety and Security
    - Section 3.12, Socioeconomics and Communities
    - Section 3.13, Station Planning, Land Use, and Development
    - Section 3.14, Agricultural Farmland and Forest Land
    - Section 3.15, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space
    - Section 3.16, Aesthetics and Visual Quality
    - Section 3.17, Cultural Resources
    - Section 3.18, Regional Growth
    - Section 3.19, Cumulative Impacts
  - **Chapter 4, Section 4(f) and 6(f) Evaluations***
  - Chapter 5, Community Analysis
  - **Chapter 6, Project Costs and Operations***
  - Chapter 7, Other CEQA/NEPA Considerations
  - Chapter 8, Preferred Alternative
  - Chapter 9, Public and Agency Involvement
  - Chapter 10, EIR/EIS Distribution
  - Chapter 11, List of Preparers
  - Chapter 12, References/Sources Used in Document Preparation
  - Chapter 13, Glossary of Terms
  - Chapter 14, Index
  - Chapter 15, Acronyms and Abbreviations
  - **Chapter 16, Corrections and Additions to the Draft Report***

- Volume 2: Technical Appendices. These appendices provide additional technical information that supports the analysis and conclusions in Volume 1 of the Draft EIR/EIS and Final EIR/EIS. Any changes to these appendices are explained in Volume 1, Chapter 16. Additional Volume 2 appendices are available with the Draft EIR/EIS.
  - Appendix 1-A, Changes in Project Benefits and Impacts
  - Appendix 2-A, Impact Avoidance and Minimization Features
  - Appendix 2-B, Applicable Design Standards
  - Appendix 2-C, Buena Park Metrolink Station Relocation and Commerce Metrolink Station Relocation Analysis
  - Appendix 2-D, Station Access Methodology Report
  - Appendix 2-E, Operations and Service Plan
  - **Appendix 2-F, Value Engineering Refinements Memorandum***
  - Appendix 3.1-A, Regional and Local Policy Inventory and Consistency Analysis
  - Appendix 3.1-B, Los Angeles to Anaheim: Footprint Mapbook
  - Appendix 3.2-A, Vehicle Miles Traveled Memorandum
  - Appendix 3.2-B, Traffic Mitigation Locations
  - Appendix 3.2-C, 2015 Baseline Conditions Traffic Counts Validation
  - Appendix 3.2-D, Horizon Year 2040 Post-Mitigation Level of Service
  - Appendix 3.4-A, Noise & Vibration Mitigation Guidelines
  - Appendix 3.5-A, Preconstruction Electromagnetic Measurement Survey
  - Appendix 3.6-A, Water Use and Energy Analysis Technical Appendix
  - Appendix 3.10-A, Potential Environmental Concern Sites and Figures
  - Appendix 3.11-A, Safety and Security Data
  - Appendix 3.11-B, Existing and Proposed Railroad Crossings
  - Appendix 3.11-C, Airport Obstructions
  - Appendix 3.12-A, Relocation Assistance Benefits
  - Appendix 3.12-B, Public Facility Tables
  - Appendix 3.12-C, Public Facility Maps
  - Appendix 3.12-D, Bikeway Maps
  - Appendix 3.12-E, Business Displacement Maps
  - Appendix 3.12-F, Children's Health and Safety Risk Assessment
  - Appendix 3.13-A, Existing Land Uses and Zoning of Project Temporary Uses and Permanent Acquisitions Figures
  - Appendix 3.13-B, Land Use Tables
  - Appendix 3.13-C, Zoning Tables
  - **Appendix 3.18-A, RIMS II Modeling Details***
  - Appendix 3.19-A, Cumulative Plans and Nontransportation Projects List
  - Appendix 3.19-B, Cumulative Transportation Projects List
  - Appendix 4-A, Park and Recreation Areas Evaluated for Section 4(f) Use
  - Appendix 4-B, Cultural Resources Evaluated for Section 4(f) Use
  - **Appendix 4-C, Coordination and Concurrence Letters***
  - **Appendix 4-D, U.S. Department of the Interior Concurrence Letter***
  - **Appendix 6-A, High-Speed Rail Operating and Maintenance Cost for Use in Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement Project-Level Analysis***
  - **Appendix 6-B, 2026 Business Plan Technical Supporting Document: Capital Cost Basis of Estimate Report***
  - Appendix 9-A, Comprehensive List of Public and Agency Meetings
  - Appendix 9-B, Inclusive Public Engagement Plan

- Volume 3: Preliminary Engineering for Project Definition (PEPD). The Authority has revised some engineering sheets from the Draft EIR/EIS Volume 3 in response to comments, which are presented in the following subvolumes. The User Guide explains how to navigate the revised sheets. The reasons for the revisions are explained in Volume 1, Chapter 16, and the types of revisions are described in the Cover Page and Index of Drawings. The unrevised Volume 3 sheets are available with the Draft EIR/EIS.
  - Volume 3 User Guide
  - **Volume 3 Cover Page and Index of Drawings***
  - **Volume 3.1: General, Track Alignment, and Right-of-Way***
  - **Volume 3.2: General, Aerial Structures, Tunnels, and Retaining Walls***
  - **Volume 3.3, General and Grade Separations***
  - **Volume 3.4, General, Utilities, Grading/Drainage, Traction Power, and Communication Towers***
  - **Volume 3.5: General and Stations***
  - **Volume 3.6: General and 15th Street LMF III and HSR Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs and Fullerton Station Options***
- **Volume 4: Responses to Comments. This volume includes comments received on the Draft EIR/EIS and the responses to these comments.**
  - **Chapter 17 Introduction to Volume 4***
  - **Chapter 18, Standard Responses***
  - **Chapter 19, Responses to Comments from Federal Agencies***
  - **Chapter 20, Responses to Comments from State Agencies***
  - **Chapter 21, Responses to Comments from Elected Officials***
  - **Chapter 22, Responses to Comments from Local Agencies***
  - **Chapter 23, Responses to Comments from Businesses and Organizations***
  - **Chapter 24, Responses to Comments from Individuals***
  - **Chapter 25, Responses to Comments from Native American Tribes***
  - **Chapter 26, References/Sources Used in Preparation of the Final Document***
- **Proposed Combined Final EIS/Record of Decision**
  - Title Page
  - Signed Record of Decision
  - Appendices to the ROD:
    - Appendix A: Final Environmental Impact Report/Proposed Final Environmental Impact Statement
    - Appendix B: Mitigation Monitoring and Enforcement Plan
    - Appendix C: State Historic Preservation Officer Section 106 Concurrence Letter and Memorandum of Agreement
    - Appendix D: Section 4(f) Concurrence Letters
    - Appendix E: General Conformity Determination for Air Quality
    - Appendix F: Section 408 Preliminary Recommendation Letters
    - Appendix G: Comments Received During October 28–29 Board Meeting