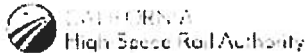


Tony Boren

From: CA High-Speed Rail: Central Valley Fresno-Bakersfield [fresno_bakersfield@hsr.ca.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 05, 2011 3:21 PM
To: Tony Boren
Subject: Revised Environmental Report to be Issued for High-Speed Train Project, Fresno-Bakersfield Section



Revised Environmental Report to be Issued for High-Speed Train Project, Fresno-Bakersfield Section

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) will issue a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Fresno to Bakersfield section of the high-speed train project. **The formal comment period for the Fresno to Bakersfield section Draft EIR/EIS will still end on Oct. 13, 2011, and the revised document, to be issued in the spring of 2012, will have a separate, additional 45-day formal comment period.**

The Authority will re-introduce an alternative route, the Hanford West Bypass alternative, along with an alternative station location to serve the Kings/Tulare region. The Hanford West Bypass alternative was selected as the preferred alternative for the 2005 Statewide Program EIR/EIS, and including this alternative is consistent with input from regulatory agencies. The Authority will also investigate improvements to the existing Fresno to Bakersfield alternatives. This step will also afford additional time to review the information contained in the current Draft EIR/EIS.

Rather than issuing a Final EIR/EIS for the Fresno-to-Bakersfield section in January as previously scheduled, the Authority will now use the coming months to further engineer the additional route and new station alternative, conduct the additional environmental analyses needed and make other necessary revisions including those based on comments received through Oct. 13, 2011, after which a "Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS" will be issued for public comment.

Public participation is an important part of this process and the Authority looks forward to working with local communities over the coming months to address questions and provide clarification on the environmental documents and process.

Please note: only comments submitted during the official comment periods (until Oct. 13, 2011 and then again in the spring of 2012) will be treated as formal comments and subsequently responded to, in writing, as part of the Final EIR/EIS.