

Get the Facts:

Sustainability California High-Speed Rail

Myth: Building High-Speed Rail Causes More Pollution Than it Will Save.

FACT: Contract requirements dictate our construction sites have significantly better air quality than the California average. Our contractors use tier 4 off-road vehicles and technology to reduce nitrogen dioxide emissions.

Site emissions are 60 percent lower than the state average.

Myth: High-Speed Rail Causes Sprawl

FACT: \$8 million in funding has been awarded for station area planning efforts, which will help create thriving and sustainable station area districts.

Planning among key cities creates meaningful connections and economic opportunities.

Myth: Investing Cap-and-Trade Proceeds In High-Speed Rail Has Produced No Results.

FACT: Cap-and-Trade funding has helped create 1.5 billion dollars of activity in disadvantaged communities and specifically added 1,064 jobs in priority communities. Of the 427 small businesses participating in the high-speed rail program, 115 are located in disadvantaged communities.

There are already 2,000 workers on site building high-speed rail.

Myth: High-Speed Will be a Drain on the Power Grid.

FACT: High-speed rail will run on electricity supplied entirely from renewable sources.

The Authority is committed to using 100 percent renewable energy to operate our trains and facilities.

Myth: California Could Make Better Transportation Investments.

FACT: High-Speed Rail is a critical part of California's sustainable transportation network.

The goals of high-speed rail are reducing congestion and pollution while improving mobility and increasing access to jobs and affordable housing.

As California's population rises and our economy continues to grow, high-speed rail is the only mode that meets every one of these goals.

Myth: High-Speed Rail Does Nothing to Reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Now.

FACT: At this very moment rail crossings throughout northern and southern California are being upgraded or eliminated. This reduces traffic congestion, improves safety and cuts GHG emissions from idling vehicles.

A single rail crossing can cause up to 45 days of stopped traffic per year, which results in about 1,800 tons of GHG emissions annually.

