



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, SACRAMENTO
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1325 J STREET
SACRAMENTO CA 95814-2922

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

February 21, 2012

Regulatory Division (SPK-2009-01483)

Mr. Mark McLaughlin
California-High Speed Rail Authority
925 L Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. McLaughlin:

I am writing in response to your January 27, 2012, letter regarding the Western Madera Alternative (A3) Waters of the United States Screening Analysis. In our June 14, 2011 letter regarding the reasonable range of alternatives carried forward in the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS), we did not agree with the High-Speed Rail Authority's recommendation to eliminate the A3 alternative within the Merced to Fresno segment of the California High-Speed Train (CHST) Project. This alternative had been shown to be practicable and appeared to have less impacts to waters of the United States than the other alternatives included in the analysis.

After reviewing the additional data provided in your letter, we have concluded that the potential impacts to waters of the United States would be similar to that of the UPRR/SR 99 Alternative (A2). Therefore, further analysis of this alternative is not required.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the range of alternatives for this segment. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Zachary Simmons at our California South Branch, 650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-200, Sacramento, California 95814-4708, or by email at: Zachary.M.Simmons@usace.army.mil, or by telephone 916-557-6746. For more information regarding our program, please visit our website at www.spk.usace.army.mil/regulatory.html.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Jewell
Chief, Regulatory Division

Copy Furnished:

Mr. David Valenstein, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE- Mail Stop 20,
Washington, D.C. 20590-0001

Ms. Connell Dunning, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street,
San Francisco, California 94105

Mr. Jason Brush, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street,
San Francisco, California 94105

Mr. Bryan Porter, Parsons Brinckerhoff, 925 L Street, Suite 1425, Sacramento, California 95814-3704