

Press Release

CONTACT: Lisa Marie Alley
(916) 384-9026 (w)
(916) 212-8108 (c)
Lisa.Alley@hsr.ca.gov

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California State Transportation Agency and High-Speed Rail Authority Release Draft NEPA Assignment Application for Public Review and Comment

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority), in partnership with the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), today made available for public review and comment a draft application to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to assume the federal environmental responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other federal environmental laws. The State of California is seeking federal environmental responsibilities to enable more efficient reviews and approvals of the environmental documents required to advance the high-speed rail program and related rail projects.

Through this process, the State of California would assume federal environmental responsibilities on all projects comprising the Phase 1 system of the high-speed rail program connecting San Francisco to Los Angeles/Anaheim, and projects extending service to Sacramento and San Diego as part of the Phase 2 system. Additionally, the State is applying to include the ACEforward project on the Altamont Corridor Express System, and projects that will directly connect to stations on the high-speed rail system such as Link Union Station (Link US) and West Santa Ana Branch Extension projects in Southern California.

Through NEPA Assignment, the Authority will manage both NEPA and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document preparation for the Phase 1 and Phase 2 system of the high-speed rail program, finding efficiencies where possible to complete the process faster without diminishing the rigor of the environmental analysis or the opportunities for the public meaningfully to engage with the program.

The official comment period begins Thursday, November 9 and ends on Monday, December 11.

There are several ways to submit a comment regarding the NEPA assignment application:

- Online via our [web comment form](#)
- Via email at NEPA@hsr.ca.gov
- Mail your comment to:
 - Attn: NEPA Assignment Application
California High-Speed Rail Authority
770 Street, Suite 620 MS-1
Sacramento, CA 95814
- Provide written or oral comment at the Authority's Board of Directors meeting on November 15, 2017.

Comments received during the public comment period will be reviewed and considered before submitting the final application to the FRA. The state anticipates the completion of NEPA Assignment in spring 2018.

To view the draft NEPA Assignment Application visit:

http://hsr.ca.gov/Programs/Environmental_Planning/nepa_assignment.html

High-Speed Rail Authority: Connecting and Transforming California

770 L Street, Suite 1160, Sacramento, CA 95814 • T: (916) 324-1541 • F: (916) 322-0827 • www.hsr.ca.gov

