

COME PARTICIPATE IN THE MERCED TO BAKERSFIELD HIGH-SPEED TRAIN PROJECT!

The California High Speed Rail Authority will host public scoping meetings along the project section to provide the public with an opportunity to learn about the project, ask questions and provide feedback about what project alternatives and environmental issues should be evaluated in the EIR/EIS. Please join us for one of the following Open House sessions.

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

3:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Merced Community Senior Center
755 W. 15th St
Merced, CA

Thursday, March 19, 2009

3:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Madera County Fairgrounds
Home Arts Building
1850 West Cleveland Ave.
Madera, CA

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Visalia Convention Center
303 E Acequia Avenue
Visalia, CA

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Fresno Convention Center (Exhibit Hall)
848 M Street
Fresno, CA

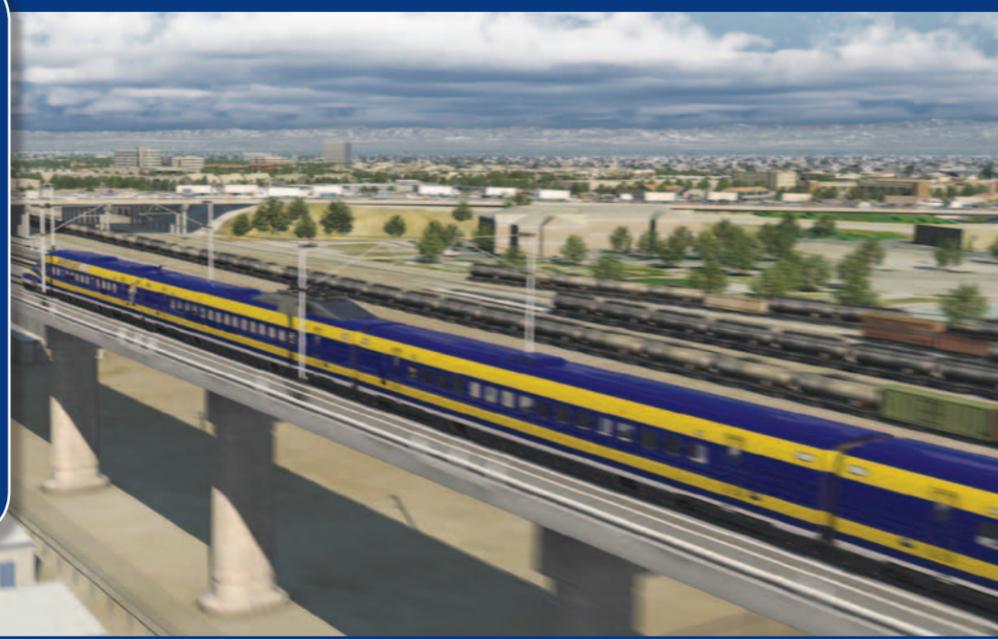
Thursday, March 26, 2009

3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Rabobank Theater (Lobby)
1001 Truxtun Ave.
Bakersfield, CA

COMMENTS

Public scoping comments regarding the Merced-to-Bakersfield HST project will be accepted until Friday, April 10, 2009. Please send comments to Ms. Carrie Pourvahidi, Deputy Director, Merced-to-Bakersfield, California High Speed Rail Authority, 925 L Street, Suite 1425, Sacramento, CA 95814. Comments can also be submitted via email to comments@hsr.ca.gov with the subject line "Merced-to-Bakersfield HST."



CALIFORNIA HIGH SPEED TRAIN PROJECT WILL:

- Be built on dedicated right-of-way, safely separated from cars and trucks, pedestrians and other rail traffic
- Use only a fraction of the energy of automobiles and airplanes
- Help free California from dependence on fossil fuels and reduce greenhouse gases that cause global warming.
- Reduce traffic – the statewide system will remove over 50 million auto trips per year
- Enhance the economy – as many as 450,000 jobs will be created, including jobs at the maintenance facility to be located in the Central Valley
- Improve the environment – the energy efficient, high-speed trains will provide a transportation alternative that will help reduce air pollution.
- Provide better connections – provides a safer, time and cost efficient alternative to automobiles and will help relieve overcrowding at major airports

For more information visit www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov



WHAT IS THE HIGH-SPEED TRAIN?

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) is proposing high-speed train service for travel between Los Angeles and San Diego in the south to the San Francisco Bay Area and Sacramento in the north. This fast, safe, reliable system will travel at speeds in excess of 200 miles per hour and is forecast to carry up to 100 million passengers annually for the entire 800-mile high-speed train network by the year 2030.



MERCED TO BAKERSFIELD HIGH-SPEED TRAIN PROJECT

The Merced-to-Bakersfield section of the High-Speed Train (HST) system includes the area north of the City of Merced south to the City of Bakersfield. Proposed route alternatives generally follow the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) or the Union Pacific (UP) railroads throughout the section. HST stations are proposed in Merced, Fresno and Bakersfield. A potential station in the Visalia/Hanford/Tulare area will be evaluated. A heavy maintenance and repair facility will be evaluated in the Merced to Bakersfield HST project area.

(See detailed map inside.)

CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED TRAIN SYSTEM



ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS

California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) initiated the project-level environmental review process for the high-speed train project between Merced and Bakersfield.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Authority has issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP), and the FRA published a Notice of Intent (NOI) for the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). As part of the initial phase of the environmental process, public scoping meetings will be hosted to receive public comment on the alternatives and issues that should be examined as part of the environmental analysis. Your comments will be considered in the preparation of the environmental document and will become part of the public record.



WHAT IS SCOPING?

Scoping is the first opportunity to become involved in the Merced-to-Bakersfield HST project-level Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS). During the scoping process the public, as well as city, county, state, and federal agencies have an opportunity to provide comments on project alternatives and environmental impacts to be evaluated in the EIR/EIS. The purpose of the scoping process is to:

- identify public and agency concerns early in the environmental process
- receive input on alternatives and issues that will be examined in the Draft EIR
- save time in the overall process and facilitate an efficient EIR/EIS preparation process

IMPLEMENTATION AND CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE

