

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT & BILINGUAL VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE STOCKTON DIAMOND GRADE SEPARATION PROJECT

The San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRR) as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency is issuing this Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Stockton Diamond Grade Separation Project (Project). During this 45 calendar day review period, the public is encouraged to provide input on the Draft EIR. All input received will be documented and addressed in the Final EIR, anticipated to be completed this summer. Additionally, California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) serves as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Lead Agency, under delegation by the Federal Highway Administration, and is concurrently preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed project.



PUBLIC REVIEW & COMMENT PERIOD: March 15 to April 29, 2021

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Project is located in the City of Stockton in San Joaquin County. The State Route (SR) 4 Crosstown Freeway, which is grade separated from the Union Pacific Railroad (UP) tracks with an overpass, is located to the north of the Diamond. The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) and UP main lines and the Stockton Diamond wye connections cross several city streets at grade, creating both access and improvement opportunities for the local community. The Stockton Diamond is the busiest, most congested at-grade railway junction in California resulting in significant congestion and delays for both freight and passenger rail. The current configuration causes extreme rail backups, delays on local roadway crossings, and prevents San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJJPA), managers of Amtrak San Joaquins from expanding commuter/passenger rail service. The proposed Project is a critical element in SJRR's vision to expand intercity and commuter rail service between the San Joaquin Valley and both Sacramento and the Bay Area. SJRR proposes to replace an at-grade crossing of the UP and BNSF rail lines with a railroad grade separation. Three design options to construct a rail flyover are being studied as part of the proposed Project and the preferred Alternative will be selected by the Project team after the conclusion of the public review period in consideration of the comments received during Draft EIR circulation. The proposed Project will:

- Reduce freight and passenger rail delays and associated congestion;
- Accommodate planned freight and passenger rail growth, supporting ACE and San Joaquins' Valley Rail;
- Maintain key community connections;
- Improve multimodal access;
- Provide local and regional environmental and economic benefits; and
- Address safety by closure and enhancements at key railroad crossings.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The Draft EIR assesses potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project on the physical, human, and natural environment. A wide variety of resource areas were studied during the environmental review to identify potential impacts, including aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology/soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards & hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, land use/planning, mineral resources, noise, population/housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities/service systems, and wildfire. Measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate any potential significant impacts will be identified and evaluated in the Final EIR.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, SJRR is offering a convenient, bilingual virtual meeting for the public to learn more about the project, interact with project team members, ask questions and submit formal comments on the Draft EIR during the Project's 45-day public comment period. Join our bilingual virtual public meeting on **Tuesday, April 6, 2021 from 6-7:30 p.m.** through Webex using a link and password, or by phone using a dial-in number and access code provided below.

ENGLISH MEETING

Webex: bit.ly/SD_Meeting_English

Webex Password: SD_English

Dial-in #: 408-418-9388 | **Access Code:** 187 558 2321

SPANISH MEETING

Webex: bit.ly/SD_Meeting_Spanish

Webex Password: SD_Spanish

Dial-in #: 408-418-9388 | **Access Code:** 187 359 6057

SUBMITTING COMMENTS

Comments and input on the Draft EIR are invited from all interested parties for a period of 45 days from March 15 to April 29, 2021. The Draft EIR is available for public review at SJRR, located at 949 E Channel St., Stockton, CA; CHSRA, 770 L St., Suite 620, Sacramento, CA; Stockton City Hall, 425 N El Dorado St., Stockton, CA; San Joaquin County, 44 N San Joaquin St., Stockton, CA; Catholic Charities Diocese of Stockton, 1106 N. El Dorado St., Stockton, CA; Café Coop, 42 N Sutter St., Stockton, CA; El Concilio, 445 N. San Joaquin St., Stockton, CA; and Restoration for Life Ministries, 1234 Anderson St., Stockton, CA via:

Mail: c/o Public Outreach
2379 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95833

Email: info@stocktondiamond.com

Website: stocktondiamond.com

Telephone: 209-235-0133

SPECIAL MEETING ACCOMMODATIONS

For additional accessibility preferences, please call 209-235-0133 or email info@stocktondiamond.com. For the deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service TTY and/or Voice Line at 1-800-735-2929, or 711.