

September 11, 2020 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission to Host Virtual Public Meetings for Proposed Stockton Diamond Grade Separation Project

Public input encouraged on environmental scope of the project

Stockton, CA – The <u>San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission</u> (SJRRC) is seeking early public input on the Stockton Diamond Grade Separation Project, which proposes to grade separate the worst freight rail bottleneck in California with a flyover bridge just south of Downtown Stockton at what is called the "Stockton Diamond." This rail intersection is where Union Pacific Railroad and BNSF Railway mainline tracks currently cross at-grade. As the California Environmental Quality Act Lead Agency, SJRRC is working in cooperation with the <u>California High-Speed Rail Authority</u> (National Environmental Policy Act Lead Agency), under assignment by the <u>Federal Railroad Administration</u>.

LEARN MORE AT UPCOMING VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETINGS

To provide convenient participation in a safe environment while social distancing, SJRRC is hosting three virtual public meetings during the project's 45-day public comment period so that attendees can learn about the project, interact with project team members, ask questions and submit formal comments.

Join Online OR By Phone:

Each meeting can be joined online through Webex using a link and password or by phone using a dial-in number and access code.

English Virtual Meeting #1	English Virtual Meeting #2	Spanish Virtual Meeting #3
Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2020	Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2020	Thursday, Sept. 17, 2020
6-7:30 p.m.	2-3:30 p.m.	6-7:30 p.m.
ONLINE: • Webex Link: <u>bit.ly/SD_Public_Meeting1</u>	ONLINE: • Webex Link: <u>bit.ly/SD_Public_Meeting2</u>	ONLINE: • Webex Link: <u>bit.ly/SD_Public_Meeting3</u>
Webex Password: SD_Meeting#1	Webex Password: SD_Meeting#2	 Webex Password: SD_Meeting#3
BY PHONE:	BY PHONE:	BY PHONE:
• Dial-in #: 408-418-9388	• Dial-in #: 408-418-9388	• Dial-in #: 408-418-9388
• Dail-in Code: 146 995 3665	• Dial-in Code: 146 662 8153	• Dial-in Code: 146 356 6775

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.

SUBMITTING COMMENTS

Suggestions and comments on the scope and content of the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment are invited from all interested parties until **5 p.m. PST on October 3, 2020**. Written or verbal comments concerning the proposed project's environmental scope should be submitted via the following options.

Website:	stocktondiamond.com
Email:	info@stocktondiamond.com
Telephone:	(209) 235-0133

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

BACKGROUND

The Stockton Diamond Grade Separation project is a collaboration between SJRRC and the private entities <u>BNSF</u> <u>Railway</u> and <u>Union Pacific Railroad</u> as well as regional partner agencies. This rail intersection results in significant congestion and delays for both freight and passenger rail.

By reducing train conflicts at the crossing and resulting congestion, rail service reliability and operational efficiency will improve. The proposed project will also enhance safety and improve access and mobility across the tracks for City of Stockton residents, businesses and visitors. The grade separation will improve efficiency, reduce delays and emissions caused by automobile traffic congestion, and freight and passenger train idling at several track crossings near the Stockton Diamond. This will result in improved air quality, decreased fuel consumption, increased goods movement throughput and train velocity, creating cost savings for transportation.

The proposed project is a critical element in SJRRC's vision to expand intercity and commuter rail service between the San Joaquin Valley, Sacramento, and the Bay Area. Allowing trains to move unrestricted through the proposed Stockton Diamond Grade Separation will create the opportunity for future passenger service expansion for ACE and San Joaquins. The improvements support on-time performance and travel options to connect affordable housing, jobs, school, recreation and families.



ABOUT SJRRC:

Governed by a Board of Directors consisting of six full-voting members from San Joaquin County and two specialvoting members from Alameda County, SJRRC owns, operates and is the policy-making body for the ACE service, which has been transporting passengers between the Central Valley and Bay Area since 1999. For more information about SJRRC and ACE, visit <u>acerail.com</u> or connect through Facebook (<u>@AltamontCorridorExpress</u>) and Twitter (<u>@ACE_train</u>).

LEARN MORE ABOUT STOCKTON DIAMOND PROJECT:

Visit stocktondiamond.com, email info@stocktondiamond.com or call (209) 235-0133.

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