

Subject **FRA's General Conformity Determination for the San Jose to Merced Project Section Available for Public Comment Until December 27, 2021**

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CALIFORNIA High-Speed Rail Authority



San Jose to Merced Project Section: FRA's General Conformity Determination Available for Public Comment Until December 27, 2021

Dear Stakeholder:

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) is advancing the environmental review of the San Jose to Merced Section of the California HSR System pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 (also known as "NEPA Assignment"), under which it has assumed the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) environmental review responsibilities. However, under NEPA Assignment, FRA remains responsible for making General Conformity Determinations under the Clean Air Act. Today, FRA is making the draft General Conformity Determination for the California High-Speed Train System, San Jose to Merced Section available for public review and comment for 30 days.

You may:

- Review the notice for the draft General Conformity Determination which provides information on the document and how to submit comments;
- Directly access the draft General Conformity Determination for review; and
- Submit your comments related to the draft General Conformity Determination

by going to: <https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/2021-25805/draft-general-conformity-determination-for-the-california-high-speed-rail-system-san-jose-to-merced>.

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FRA's analysis of the potential emissions from the San Jose to Merced Section, completed in close collaboration with the Authority, found that construction period emissions would exceed the General Conformity de minimis threshold for Nitrogen Dioxide (NOx), a precursor for ozone. However, operation of the project would result in an overall reduction of regional emissions of all applicable air pollutants and would not cause a localized exceedance of an air quality standard. Conformance of the project with Clean Air Act requirements will be accomplished through emission reductions of the NOx emissions, consistent with applicable regulatory requirements.

FRA will consider all relevant comments it receives before issuing a final General Conformity Determination. Although the Authority is assisting FRA by disseminating notice of the availability of the draft General Conformity Determination through this email, the Authority is not accepting comments on behalf of FRA. FRA cannot ensure consideration of any comment that is not submitted via www.regulations.gov.

All comments must be received by **December 27, 2021**.

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SEE MORE AT WWW.HSR.CA.GOV

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