

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT & VIRTUAL PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS FOR THE STOCKTON DIAMOND GRADE SEPARATION PROJECT

The San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRRRC) (California Environmental Quality Act Lead Agency), in cooperation with the California High Speed Rail Authority (National Environmental Policy Act Lead Agency), under delegation by the Federal Railroad Administration, is officially launching the environmental process for the proposed Stockton Diamond Grade Separation project (Project) with this Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Assessment (EA). The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being or have been carried out by the State of California pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated July 23, 2019, and executed by the Federal Railroad Administration and the State of California.



**SCOPING COMMENT PERIOD:** Aug. 19 to Oct. 3, 2020

### 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 safety constraints and opportunities for the local community.

The proposed Project is a critical element in SJRRRC's vision to expand intercity and commuter rail service between the San Joaquin Valley and both Sacramento and the Bay Area. SJRRRC proposes to replace an at-grade crossing of the UP and BNSF rail lines with a railroad grade separation. Various options to construct a rail flyover are being studied and a feasible build option will be selected following extensive partner agency and stakeholder coordination, and environmental analysis. 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 SJRRRC and Amtrak from expanding commuter/passenger rail service. The proposed Project will:

- Reduce Freight and Passenger rail delays and associated congestion;
- Accommodate planned freight and passenger rail growth, supporting ACE and San Joaquin's 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 railroads crossings.

### POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The EIR/EA process will assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project on the physical, human, and natural environment. A wide variety of resource areas will be 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 adverse impacts will be identified and evaluated in the EIR/EA.

### VIRTUAL PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

A 45-day public scoping process is being initiated with this notice. Responsible and Trustee Agencies, involved federal agencies, interest groups, and members of the public are invited to participate and provide valuable input into the scope of the EIR/EA. For your convenience, and to allow participation in a safe environment while social distancing, three virtual public scoping meetings will be held during the project's 45-day scoping period. Please join us at one of the following meetings to learn about the project, interact with project team members, ask questions, and submit formal comments.

#### ENGLISH MEETINGS:

**Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2020**  
**6-7:30 p.m.**

**WebEx:** [bit.ly/SD\\_Public\\_Meeting1](https://bit.ly/SD_Public_Meeting1)

**Dial-in #:** 408-418-9388

**Code:** 146 995 3665

**Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2020**  
**2-3:30 p.m.**

**WebEx:** [bit.ly/SD\\_Public\\_Meeting2](https://bit.ly/SD_Public_Meeting2)

**Dial-in #:** 408-418-9388

**Code:** 146 662 8153

#### SPANISH MEETING:

**Thursday, Sept. 17, 2020**  
**6-7:30 p.m.**

**WebEx:** [bit.ly/SD\\_Public\\_Meeting3](https://bit.ly/SD_Public_Meeting3)

**Dial-in #:** 408-418-9388

**Code:** 146 356 6775

### SUBMITTING COMMENTS

Submission of comments on the environmental scope of the Project are invited from all interested parties from Aug. 19, 2020 until **5 p.m. PST on Oct. 3, 2020**. Comments can be submitted via the following options:

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

**Email:** [info@stocktondiamond.com](mailto:info@stocktondiamond.com)

**Website:** [stocktondiamond.com](http://stocktondiamond.com)

**Telephone:** 209-235-0133

### SPECIAL MEETING ACCOMMODATIONS

For additional accessibility preferences, please call 209-235-0133 or email [info@stocktondiamond.com](mailto: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.