



# STOCKTON DIAMOND

*Unlocking Northern  
California's Freight and  
Passenger Rail Potential*

March 15, 2021  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **SJRRC issues Notice of Availability of Environmental Document for Proposed Stockton Diamond Grade Separation Project**

### ***Public input encouraged on Draft Environmental Impact Report***

**Stockton, CA** – As the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency, the [San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission](#) (SJRRC) is seeking public input on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Stockton Diamond Grade Separation Project (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. The public review and comment period of 45 calendar days begins today, March 15, 2021 and will end at 5 p.m. on April 29, 2021. All input received will be documented and addressed in the Final EIR, anticipated to be completed this summer. The California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) serves as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Lead Agency, under delegation by the Federal Railroad Administration, and is concurrently preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Project.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES**

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, SJRRC 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. If unable to attend the bilingual virtual public meeting, a recording of the meeting presentation will be posted to the Project website [resources page](#) the day after the meeting and available for review until 5 p.m. on April 29, 2021.

#### **Bilingual Virtual Public Meeting**

Join our bilingual virtual public meeting on **Tuesday, April 6, 2021 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.** through Webex using a link and password, or by phone using a dial-in number and access code.

| <b>English Meeting Information</b>  | <b>Spanish Meeting Information</b>  |
|---|---|
| <b>ONLINE:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Webex Link:<br/><a href="https://bit.ly/SD_Meeting_English">bit.ly/SD_Meeting_English</a></li><li>• Webex Password: SD_English</li></ul> <b>BY PHONE:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dial-in #: 408-418-9388</li><li>• Dial-in Code: 187 558 2321</li></ul> | <b>ONLINE:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Webex Link:<br/><a href="https://bit.ly/SD_Meeting_Spanish">bit.ly/SD_Meeting_Spanish</a></li><li>• Webex Password: SD_Spanish</li></ul> <b>BY PHONE:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dial-in #: 408-418-9388</li><li>• Dial-in Code: 187 359 6057</li></ul> |

*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.*

## SUBMITTING COMMENTS

Comments and input on the Draft EIR are invited from all interested parties for a period of 45 calendar days from March 15 to April 29, 2021. The Draft EIR is available for public review at:

- **San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission**  
949 E Channel St., Stockton CA
- **California High Speed Rail Authority**  
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
- **Restoration for Life Ministries**  
1234 Anderson St., Stockton CA

Written comments must be submitted by **5 p.m. April 29, 2021** via the following options:

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

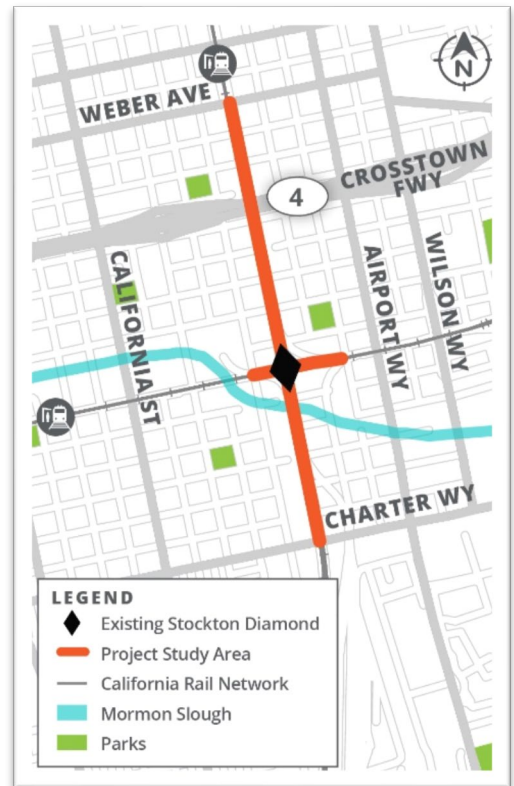
**Website:** [stocktondiamond.com](http://stocktondiamond.com)  
**Email:** [info@stocktondiamond.com](mailto:info@stocktondiamond.com)  
**Phone:** (209) 235-0133

## BACKGROUND

The proposed Project is a collaboration between SJRRC and the private entities [BNSF Railway](#) and [Union Pacific Railroad](#) 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 Project 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 special-voting 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 [acerail.com](http://acerail.com) or connect through Facebook ([@AltamontCorridorExpress](#)) and Twitter ([@ACE\\_train](#)).*

## LEARN MORE ABOUT STOCKTON DIAMOND PROJECT:

Visit [stocktondiamond.com](http://stocktondiamond.com), email [info@stocktondiamond.com](mailto:info@stocktondiamond.com) or call (209) 235-0133.

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