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CALIFORNIA High-Speed Rail Authority



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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California High-Speed Rail Authority Board Clears Final Environmental Milestone to Connect Downtown San Francisco to Downtown Los Angeles

463 Miles Now Environmentally Cleared

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: The California High-Speed Rail Authority Board of Directors has approved the final environmental document for the Palmdale to Burbank project section. This major milestone is the final environmental clearance needed for the route from downtown San Francisco to downtown Los Angeles, with only the Los Angeles to Anaheim section remaining in Phase 1.

BURBANK – The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) Board of Directors today approved the final environmental document for the 38-mile segment between Palmdale and Burbank. The approval of the Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) is the last environmental clearance between downtown San Francisco and downtown Los Angeles.

At speeds up to 220 mph, this section will connect the Antelope Valley to the San Fernando Valley in a roughly 17-minute train trip – more than twice as fast as traveling by car.



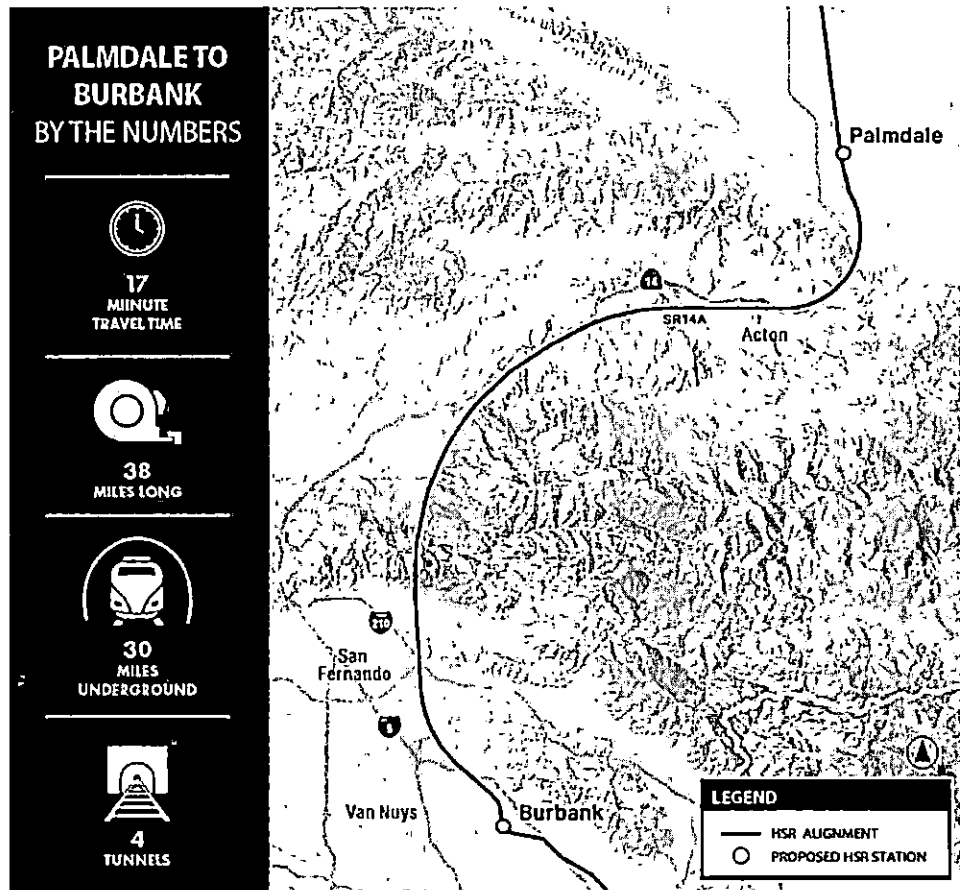
"This is a transformative project for the state of California as a whole, and today's approval is a major milestone for connecting San

Francisco to Los Angeles in less than three hours. It's also transformational for Los Angeles County, connecting Palmdale to Burbank in a way that's never been possible before."

CEO Brian Kelly

California High-Speed Rail Authority

The Board's actions move this section closer to being "shovel-ready" as funding becomes available, marking the third certification of an environmental document in the Southern California region and the second in the Los Angeles Basin since 2022.



"Today's approval is more than a historic milestone – it closes the gap between Los Angeles and San Francisco," said Authority Board Chair Tom Richards. "We value our Authority team and its tireless support and collaboration with local and regional agencies and stakeholders as we work together to improve transportation in California for future generations."

The Palmdale to Burbank Project Section will connect two key population centers in Los Angeles County by linking future multimodal transportation hubs in Palmdale and Burbank. The section features about 30 miles of tunneling, including 28 miles through mountains.

The Board approved the SR14A Alternative, which runs partly along State Route 14 and is approximately 38 miles long. It will be a grade-separated, high-speed rail-only system. Trains will be underground through the community of Acton and much of the Angeles National Forest and the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

The approved alignment reduces the length of tunneling that would traverse the Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains when compared to other alternatives. Tunneling through these regions minimizes impacts to communities and environmental resources in the region.

The Authority serves as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Draft EIR/EIS was circulated

for public review and comment from early September through early December 2022.

All that remains to environmentally clear the full 494-mile Phase 1 system of the project is the Los Angeles to Anaheim segment, which the Authority expects to finalize next year.

The Authority has begun work to extend the 119 miles currently under construction to 171 miles of future electrified high-speed rail from Merced to Bakersfield. There are currently more than 25 active construction sites in the Central Valley, with the Authority having now fully environmentally cleared 463 miles of the high-speed rail program from the Bay Area to Los Angeles County.

For the latest on high-speed rail construction, visit www.buildhsr.com.

The following link contains recent video, animations, photography, press center resources and latest renderings. These files are all available for free use, courtesy of the California High-Speed Rail Authority.



[You can find this news release online here.](#)

[Una versión en español del comunicado de prensa está disponible en línea aquí.](#)

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