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### **Authority Approves Bakersfield-Palmdale Supplemental Alternatives Analysis, Putting the Segment on Track for EIR Release in Early 2013**

SACRAMENTO – At yesterday’s California High-Speed Rail Authority Board Meeting, the Authority Board approved the Supplemental Alternatives Analysis (SAA) Report for the *Bakersfield-to-Palmdale Section* of the California High-Speed Train project.

The Bakersfield-Palmdale Section is the first segment adjacent to the southern end of the 130 miles in the Central Valley set to begin construction later this year. Today’s approval of the SAA positions the alignment to move forward with developing the section Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) by early 2013.

“The Board is interested in ensuring they have many options available to them in determining which alignment is built after the initial segment, which runs roughly from Fresno to Bakersfield,” said Authority CEO, Roelof van Ark. “By approving this report, the Board has moved another stepped closer to creating an opportunity for construction into Palmdale to begin immediately following the Central Valley segment.”

The SAA Report is a refinement of the preliminary report that was approved by the Authority Board in September of 2010. The report was prepared to document additional evaluation and analysis of the proposed alignment alternatives identified in the preliminary report, and to identify the proposed alignment alternatives to be studied further as part of the EIR/EIS preparation process.

The report addresses the Authority’s priorities to reduce environmental impacts and overall project costs along the roughly 85-mile section between Bakersfield and Palmdale. Potential local land use conflicts, wetland issues, and other potential environmental impacts and stakeholder input were considered in modifying the proposed alignment alternatives.

With the Authority Board’s approval of the *Bakersfield-to-Palmdale Supplemental Alternatives Analysis Report*, the Authority will continue with its preliminary engineering and environmental review of the proposed alignments, culminating in a draft EIR/EIS in 2013.

To view a copy of the staff report for the SAA, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/7aehahy>

***California's High-Speed Train Project***

***The California High-Speed Rail Authority is developing a San Francisco Bay Area to Los Angeles and Anaheim high-speed rail system that will operate at speeds of up to 220 miles per hour. The full system will connect all of the state's major urban centers, including Sacramento and San Diego. Initial infrastructure construction will begin in the Central Valley, the backbone of the system, in 2012. The project will generate 100,000 construction job-years of employment over the next five years and nearly one million economy-wide job-years over the life of the project. The project is being funded through voter-approved state bonds, federal funding grants, local funding, and public-private partnerships.***

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