



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Lahontan Region



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November 16, 2011

NOTICE OF INTENT TO RELY UPON AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PREPARED BY THE FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR THE DESERTXPRESS HIGH-SPEED PASSENGER TRAIN PROJECT

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) intends to rely upon the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for the DesertXpress High-Speed Passenger Train Project (Project). As Lead Agency for this Project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Water Board finds that the EIS included the additional elements necessary to meet the requirements under CEQA. The Water Board finds that the FRA circulated the DesertXpress EIS for public review in substantial conformance with the requirements of section 15087, title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR). Therefore, the Water Board is providing this notice of intent to rely on the DesertXpress EIS to satisfy environmental review obligations under CEQA in accordance with section 15225, title 14, CCR. The FRA circulated the DesertXpress EIS for public review in July 2006, March 2009, September 2010, and March 2011 through the State Clearinghouse (SCH) under SCH # 2006074002.

PROJECT NAME:

DesertXpress High-Speed Passenger Train Project

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The DesertXpress Project will provide high-speed passenger train service from Victorville, California, to Las Vegas, Nevada, using electrically-powered locomotive technology. In the Lahontan Region, the majority of the rail alignment will be constructed adjacent to the western boundary of the Interstate 15 highway corridor. Ancillary features along the alignment include a passenger station, an operations and maintenance facility, utility corridors, and electrical substations. The proposed passenger station is located west of Interstate 15 at Dale Evans Parkway within the city of Victorville. The Project will utilize a combination of at-grade crossings and above-grade structures where the rail alignment crosses natural drainage channels. A clear-span bridge design will be constructed at the Mojave River crossing in Barstow. The Project will maintain and operate existing stormwater conveyance systems within the Interstate 15 corridor.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The Project alignment is a roughly 50-foot wide and 190-mile long corridor between Victorville, California, and Las Vegas, Nevada. In California, the majority of the alignment generally follows the western boundary of Interstate 15 in San Bernardino

California Environmental Protection Agency

County. The following points identify locations along the California portion of the Project alignment.

- 34.616° N latitude, 117.241° W longitude; Victorville end point
- 35.056° N latitude, -116.435° W longitude; center of alignment
- 35.613° N latitude, -115.399° W longitude; California end point

COPIES OF THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, INCLUDING SUPPLEMENTAL AND DRAFT DOCUMENTS AND THE RECORD OF DECISION, ARE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Lahontan Region
14440 Civic Drive, Suite 200
Victorville, CA

On the internet at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/clean_water_act_401/index.shtml#pending

DISCLOSURE OF SITES INCLUDED ON LISTS ENUMERATED UNDER SECTION 65962.5 OF THE GOVERNMENT CODE INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO LISTS OF HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL SITES, AND THE INFORMATION IN THE HAZARDOUS WASTE AND SUBSTANCES STATEMENT REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (f) OF THAT SECTION.

The EIS identified a number of sites/facilities either located within or adjacent to the Project alignment as being listed on various State databases enumerated under section 65962.5 of the Government Code. Maps that show the specific locations of these sites/facilities in relation to the Project alignment are included in the EIS.

LAHONTAN REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD:

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