

# FINAL NEGATIVE DECLARATION

## SAN MATEO SETOUT TRACK



Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board

March 2018

*This page left blank intentionally.*

## 1 Introduction

This document is the Final Negative Declaration (ND) prepared for the proposed San Mateo Setout Track Project in the City of San Mateo, San Mateo County, California. An Initial Study (IS) supporting a proposed ND was prepared for the proposed project in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB) is the CEQA lead agency for the proposed project.

The new setout track would be used to store track maintenance equipment and would be positioned to the west of the existing mainline tracks, extending approximately 1,000 feet. The northern limit of the setout track would be 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and it would extend to 200 feet from 14th Avenue. This proposed project would also include a gravel access road from 11th Avenue to 14th Avenue, fencing, utility relocations, drainage modifications and tree trimming. The proposed project would be built on the existing Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB) right-of-way. No railroad track reconfiguration is associated with the proposed project with the exception of the turnout (connection) to southbound mainline (MT2) tracks.

## 2 Organization of the Final ND

This Final ND contains the following sections:

- Section 1** Introduction, including a summary of the project purpose and need
- Section 2** Organization of the Final ND
- Section 3** Process and Regulations
- Section 4** Findings and Determination
- Attachment A** Notice of Availability–Notice of Intent / Newspaper Proof
- Attachment B** March 2018 Final Initial Study

## 3 Process and Regulations

Section 15073 of the State CEQA Guidelines indicates that a lead agency shall provide a public review period for a proposed ND pursuant to Section 15105(a) of not less than 20 days when not submitted to the State Clearinghouse. The Draft IS/ND for the San Mateo Setout Track Project was circulated for public review and comment for 20 days (January 29 to February 19, 2018).

A Notice of Availability (NOA) and Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration (NOI) was sent to the San Mateo County Clerk, and was published in the San Jose Mercury News on January 29, 2018. The NOA–NOI and newspaper proof are provided in Attachment A.

The JPB received no comment letters from organized groups, individuals, or state or local agencies. The Final IS is included in Attachment B.

The Final ND has been prepared pursuant to requirements of CEQA, Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et al, and the State CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Section 15000 et al.

## 4 Findings and Determination

As lead agency for compliance with CEQA requirements, the JPB finds that the proposed project would not cause a significant adverse impact on the environment. This finding is based on the criteria of the Guidelines of the State Secretary for Resources, Section 15064 (Determining the Significance of Environmental Effects), Section 15065 (Mandatory Findings of Significance), and Section 15070 (Decision to Prepare a Negative or Mitigated Negative Declaration), as well as on the results of the Final Initial Study prepared for the project, included in Attachment B.

On the basis of this evaluation, the JPB concludes:

- ✓ The proposed project would not degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered species, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.
- ✓ The proposed project would not achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals.
- ✓ The proposed project would not have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.
- ✓ The proposed project would not have environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.
- ✓ No substantial evidence exists to demonstrate that the proposed project would have a substantive negative effect on the environment.