

CHAPTER 6: CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

This environmental document was prepared on the basis of consultation and coordination with federal, state, and local agencies, and with elected officials, community leaders, organizations, and other individuals from the communities within the Caltrain Corridor. Coordination and consultation is being achieved through publication of formal notices, informational meetings and mailings. Public hearings will be held during the circulation period for this environmental document.

6.1 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND INFORMATION PROGRAM

The Public Involvement and Information Program integrated two “tracks” of activities: public involvement and public information. Public involvement activities provide opportunities for the public as well as agency personnel to express issues of concern to help guide the preparation of the environmental studies and to review project impacts as determined by the studies. Public information activities enable citizens and agencies alike to learn about the project, developing issues, the environmental studies, and the planning process.

6.1.1 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

Three rounds of public meetings were planned to present the project and obtain input on the environmental studies and any issues of particular concern to individuals or constituencies. Each round was designed to facilitate participation by members of all communities throughout the Peninsula Corridor by scheduling meetings at four different locations in the Caltrain corridor. Notification of the meetings was by direct mailing and/or publication in newspapers of general circulation.

The early rounds of meetings satisfied the requirements of NEPA and CEQA for public input to the project alternatives and the scope of the environmental studies, and enabled participants to become better informed about the project, the environmental studies, and the planning process. Public hearings will also be held in four different locations during the circulation period for the environmental document, to enable participants to comment on the environmental study results. The responses to comments raised during the public hearings will be used by decisionmakers to determine whether to approve the project.

6.1.1.1 Scoping

Environmental Scoping / Initiation of Studies Meetings. Environmental Scoping Meetings were held between September 6 and September 21, 2000. Meetings were conducted in San Francisco, San Carlos, Santa Clara and Morgan Hill to announce the initiation of environmental studies for the Electrification Program and to obtain public and agency input to the project alternatives to be evaluated and the scope of the environmental studies. The meeting format included formal presentations on the Electrification Program and environmental studies as well

as the other Caltrain system and facility rehabilitation and enhancement activities being carried out by the JPB. All meetings provided for translation into other languages and signing for the hearing impaired, and all locations were accessible by Caltrain. The presentations were followed by a question-and-answer period to address participants' concerns and obtain their comments regarding the Caltrain Electrification Program project alternatives and scope and content of the environmental studies.

A unique feature of these meetings was a "visioning" process designed to elicit participants' aspirations for the longer-term future of Caltrain service throughout the corridor. The visioning process was held after and as a separate agenda item from the Electrification Program scoping meeting.

The meetings were advertised in flyers directly mailed to all residential and business addresses within one-half mile of the Caltrain corridor from San Francisco to Gilroy. Also, press releases were sent to newspaper, radio and television contacts throughout the corridor and flyers were delivered to city halls and main libraries and distributed on Caltrain cars during the several weeks prior to the meetings. Over 275 members of the public and agency representatives attended these meetings and provided numerous oral comments and about 10 written comments regarding their concerns for the project. The comments were recorded and summarized in the "Initiation of the Environmental Review Public Meetings: Summary Report," October 2000, by Moore Iacofano Goltsman.

Written comments were also received during the 30-day scoping comment period. Written comments were received from the following agencies:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
California Department of Toxic Substances Control
Caltrans
San Mateo County Council / Leagues of Women Voters of San Mateo County
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA)
City of Burlingame Planning Department
City of Burlingame Public Works Department
City of San Bruno Community Development Department
City and County of San Francisco, Planning Department
City of Sunnyvale
Town of Colma Planning Department
City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County
Office of the City Manager, City of Mountain View

About 40 letters and e-mails from individuals and three letters from associations (San Bruno Chamber of Commerce, San Francisco Tomorrow, and Regional Alliance for Transit [RAFT]) were received during the scoping comment period. All of the comments received have been taken into consideration in developing the project alternatives and environmental technical studies.

6.1.1.2 Public Hearings

Public hearings will be held during the comment period on this Draft EA/EIR document. Hearings will be conducted in San Francisco, San Carlos, Santa Clara, and Morgan Hill to facilitate participation by individuals throughout the corridor communities. Hearings are scheduled in the middle of the comment period to enable community members to become somewhat familiar with the environmental document prior to the meetings, but also to have time to review the document and comment on it following the meetings. These meetings will be advertised in flyers to be directly mailed to all residential and business addresses within one-half mile of the Caltrain corridor and distributed to city halls and main libraries throughout the corridor. Also, press releases will be provided to newspaper, radio and television media representatives.

A formal presentation followed by a question-and-answer period is anticipated for each meeting. Informational materials and displays will present the results of the environmental studies and the findings of the environmental document. Written comments will be solicited. Written responses will be provided in the final environmental documents to all written comments received at the public hearings or during the public comment period on the Draft EA/EIR.

The EIR will be approved by the JPB at a duly noticed JPB meeting that incorporates a public hearing. If the Electrification Program Alternative is approved, it will be approved at a duly noticed JPB meeting that incorporates a public hearing.

6.1.2 PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

An update on the Electrification Program was provided to the public at an informational meeting in the JPB Board room on November 15, 2001. A formal presentation described the Electrification Program design criteria; the recently completed traction power system study report; electrification facilities including rolling stock, power supply station facilities and equipment, and overhead catenary system pole and wiring configurations; and provided the preliminary capital cost estimate. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer period that enabled participants to comment about the project.

Another round of informational meetings will be held to present the environmental study findings in advance of the release of this environmental document. Notices of these meetings will be directly mailed to all residential and business addresses within one-half mile of the Caltrain corridor from San Francisco to Gilroy and included in flyers distributed to city halls and main libraries throughout the corridor. Also, press releases will be sent to print, radio, and television media representatives.

These meetings will be convened in San Francisco, San Carlos, Santa Clara, and Morgan Hill at locations accessible by Caltrain to facilitate participation by individuals from all corridor communities. Visual simulations of project facilities – including overhead catenary poles and wires, and traction power station facilities (as shown in Section 2, Alternatives), and overbridge protection structures (as shown in Section 3.1, Aesthetics) – will be displayed for participants' reactions and comments. The anticipated schedule for release of the environmental document and receipt of comments will be presented. Comments received will be summarized for

incorporation into the public involvement documents and taken into consideration as they affect the environmental technical studies and environmental document.

It is anticipated that a third round of four informational meetings will be held towards the completion of the environmental compliance review and prior to formal approval of the environmental documents. These meetings will include a formal presentation of the results of the environmental studies, present details of the preferred alternative, and disclose the anticipated schedule for completion and construction of the electrification facilities. It is anticipated that these meetings will be advertised through direct mailings, flyers and press releases as done for all previous meetings. Once again, all meeting locations will be accessible by Caltrain.

6.1.3 OTHER PUBLIC INFORMATION MECHANISMS

6.1.3.1 Newsletters and Flyers

Flyers announcing project information meetings and hearings have been and will be prepared throughout the studies. The first information flyer announced the initiation of studies meetings and was directly mailed to all residential and business addresses within one-half mile of the Caltrain corridor, distributed to city halls and main libraries throughout the corridor, and made available on Caltrain cars. The second information flyer will announce the meetings to present the environmental study findings and the schedule for release of the environmental document. A third information flyer to announce the public hearings for the environmental document is anticipated.

6.1.3.2 Media Relations and Publicity

The project team maintains a current list of print, radio, and television media representatives for the purpose of distributing press releases about the project and project meetings.

6.2 CONSULTATIONS

6.2.1 CONSULTATION MEETINGS WITH COVENANT HOLDER FOR HISTORIC RAILROAD STATIONS

Consultation meetings were held March 19, 2001 and November 20, 2001 in JPB offices in San Carlos with Lorie Garcia, South Bay Historical Railroad Society, Covenant Holder for the six historic railroad stations within the Caltrain corridor. The first meeting was conducted to present the Electrification Program and obtain Ms. Garcia's input regarding the potential effects of the project facilities on the corridor's historic station resources and to identify preferred approaches to avoid impacts on these resources. The second meeting was held to present plans for the OCS facilities at all six historic stations and review visual simulations of the OCS facilities at the Cahill (Diridon) and Santa Clara stations to obtain Ms. Garcia's reactions and input regarding any remaining concerns. These comments were taken into consideration in developing OCS configurations and pole placement and treatments in the vicinity of the historic stations.

6.2.2 OTHER CONSULTATIONS

All public agencies formally or informally contacted and consulted during the preparation of this environmental document, including those which received notice or a copy of this EA/EIR, include the following:

Bureau of Indian Affairs	San Jose Historical Landmarks Commission
Native American Heritage Commission	Santa Clara Historical Landmarks Commission
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Sunnyvale Heritage Preservation Commission
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Sunnyvale Historical Society and Museum Association
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Millbrae Historical Society
California Office of Historic Preservation	Redwood City Heritage Association
California Department of Fish and Game	Foundation of San Francisco's Architectural Heritage
California Air Resources Board	San Francisco Historical Society
California Public Utilities Commission	South Bay Historical Railroad Society, Inc.
Caltrans, District 4	California Trolley and Railroad Corporation
Sonoma State University Information Center	Central Coast Chapter, NRHS
Covenant Holder, South Bay Historical Railroad Society	City of San Francisco
Bay Area Air Quality Management District	City of South San Francisco
Metropolitan Transportation Commission	City of Brisbane
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission	City of San Bruno
San Mateo County Transportation Authority	City of Millbrae
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority	City of Burlingame
Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission	City of San Mateo
Heritage Council of Santa Clara County	City of Belmont
San Mateo County Historical Association and Museum	City of San Carlos
Gilroy Historical Society	City of Redwood City
Historical Preservation Society of Santa Clara	City of Foster City
Milpitas Cultural Resources Preservation Board	City of Menlo Park
Milpitas Historical Society	City of Palo Alto
Morgan Hill Architectural Cultural Resources Board	City of Mountain View
Morgan Hill Historical Society and Museum	City of Sunnyvale
Mountain View Pioneer and Historical Society	City of Santa Clara
Palo Alto Historic Resources Board	City of San Jose
Palo Alto Historical Association	City of Morgan Hill
Preservation Action Council of San Jose	City of Gilroy

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Private entities, groups and individuals contacted and consulted during preparation of this environmental document are listed below:

Dennis Kennedy, Mayor of Morgan Hill
Patricia Dixon, Michael Barber, Ed Stoehr, Citizens Advisory Committee of San Mateo County
Transportation Authority
Howard Mason, City of Belmont
Lee Panza, City of Brisbane
Bob Bates, Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Frank Sharpless, Jennifer Reilly, Rudy Lemus, Ann Catherine Vinickas, Santa Clara Valley
Transportation Authority
Lisa Nissan, City of Mountain View
Richard Yee, City of Santa Clara
Jack Witthaus, City of Sunnyvale
Chris Stampolis, Santa Clara Planning Commission
Mike Learned, U.S. Census
Sila Warner, AC Transit
Jason Lee, BART
Joseph M. Steffanic, U.S. DOT – FRA
Anthony Lee, Caltrans
John Hronowski, JPB Citizens Advisory Committee
Gary Bonte, Redwood City Planning Department
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Union Pacific Railroad
Amtrak
Liquid Carbonic (LNG for Locomotives)
Southwest Research Institute (LNG and Clean Diesel Locomotives)
Energy Conversions (Clean Diesel Locomotives)
Bay Rail Alliance (formerly Peninsula Rail 2000)
Sierra Club Transportation Committee (Loma Prieta Chapter)
AT&T
Pacific Bell
MCI Worldcom

6.3 NOTICE OF PREPARATION

On September 6, 2000, a Notice of Preparation to prepare an Environmental Impact Report was published and distributed to California State agencies and other interested parties. Notice of Preparation (NOP) packages were distributed through the Office of Planning and Research (State Clearinghouse). Approximately 60 written comments to the NOP were received during and following the 30-day scoping period. These comments were taken into consideration in developing the project alternatives and scoping the environmental technical studies reported on in this environmental document.

6.4 PERMITS AND APPROVALS

The permits and approvals involving other local, state, and federal agencies that may be required prior to project implementation and uses of this document by other agencies are described in Sections 1.4 and 1.5.

6.5 CHRONOLOGY OF COORDINATION

Following is a chronology of consultation and coordination activities conducted in conjunction with the preparation of the environmental studies and this environmental document:

- Information Meetings/Electrification Program Update:
 - Santa Clara – March 28, 2000
 - San Mateo City Council – April 3, 2000
 - Menlo Park City Council – May 9, 2000
 - San Bruno – July 11, 2000
- Project Flyer #1 – Issued August 26, 2000
- Scoping / Re-initiation of Studies Meetings: September 6, 13, 14, and 21, 2000
- Information Meetings / Electrification Program Update:
 - San Carlos Chamber of Commerce – November 16, 2000
 - Palo Alto City Hall – January 17, 2001
- Information Meeting / Electric Multiple Units (EMUs) – February 1, 2001
- Consultation Meeting with Covenant Holder on historic railroad stations: March 19, 2001
- Information Meetings / Electrification Program Update – November 15, 2001
- Consultation Meeting with Covenant Holder on Historic railroad stations: November 20, 2001
- The JPB Board is provided a quarterly update on the status of ongoing projects. The Caltrain Electrification Program was discussed with public comment at the following JPB Board meetings:
 - February 7, 2002
 - May 2, 2002
 - September 5, 2002
 - October 31, 2002
 - February 6, 2003
 - May 1, 2003
 - August 7, 2003
 - November 6, 2003

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The following public information activities are anticipated:

- Project Information Flyer #2
- Informational Meetings / Electrification Program Update prior to release of Draft Environmental Document.
- Consultation Meetings with federal and state resource agency personnel.
- Public Hearings on the Draft Environmental Document.
- Project Flyer Information #3
- Information Meetings / Electrification Program Update prior to Final Environmental Document and project approval.