

# DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

## SOUTH TERMINAL PHASE II PROJECT



Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board

April 2016

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## 1 Introduction

This document is the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) prepared for the proposed South Terminal Phase II Project in the City of San Jose, Santa Clara County, California. An Initial Study (IS) supporting a proposed MND was prepared for the proposed project in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The JPB is the CEQA lead agency for the proposed project.

The proposed project consists of the construction of a fourth track and new signal controls between the south end of Caltrain's Centralized Equipment Maintenance and Operation Facility (CEMOF) and the north end of San Jose Diridon Station, as well as construction of a small section of track to install a crossover north of CEMOF. The purpose of the proposed project is to maintain operational flexibility and minimize delays by allowing non-revenue trains (e.g. out of service trains) to move to and from CEMOF without conflicting with revenue service (e.g. trains carrying passengers). The additional track is needed for the operational flexibility of operations north of Diridon Station and will improve the ability of Caltrain service to respond to unanticipated events, such as delayed trains, weather, or mechanical issues where the Diridon area becomes an operational bottleneck.

## 2 Organization of the Draft MND

This Draft MND contains the following sections:

<b>Section 1</b>	Introduction, including a summary of the project purpose and need
<b>Section 2</b>	Organization of the Draft MND
<b>Section 3</b>	Process and Regulations
<b>Section 4</b>	Findings and Determination
<b>Attachment A</b>	Notice of Availability–Notice of Intent

The Final MND will contain attachments associated with the documentation of response to comments and the mitigation monitoring and reporting program.

## 3 Process and Regulations

Section 15073 of the State CEQA Guidelines indicate that a lead agency shall provide a public review period for a proposed MND pursuant to Section 15105(b) of not less than 30 days when submitted to the State Clearing House. The Draft IS/MND for the South Terminal Phase II Project is currently being circulated for public review and comment for 30 days (April 11 to May 10, 2016). Postcards were mailed to addresses within one-quarter mile of the proposed project. The project website and e-mail address are as follows:

- Website - [www.caltrain.com/stp2](http://www.caltrain.com/stp2)
- E-mail address - [STP2@caltrain.com](mailto:STP2@caltrain.com)

The JPB has scheduled a public information meeting for April 21, 2016 at 7 p.m. at the Rose Garden Library Community Room, 1580 Naglee Avenue, San Jose, CA.

A Notice of Availability (NOA) and Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (NOI) was sent to the State Clearinghouse and Santa Clara County Clerk, and was published in two newspapers, the San Jose Mercury (in English) and El Observador (in Spanish). The NOA–NOI is provided in Attachment A.

The Final MND will be 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. The Final MND will include all comments received by the State Clearinghouse and JPB during the public review period.

## 4 Findings and Determination

As lead agency for compliance with CEQA requirements, the JPB finds that the proposed project, implemented with the proposed mitigation measures, 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 Draft Initial Study prepared for the project. Mitigation measures for potential impacts associated with implementation of the proposed project are identified in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, which will be included as an attachment to the Final MND.

On the basis of this evaluation, the JPB concludes:

- ✓ With implementation of all mitigation measures identified in the Draft Initial Study, 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.

## Attachment A

### Notice of Availability and Notice of Intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

**Project Title:** South Terminal Phase II

**Location:** City of San Jose, Santa Clara County, California

**APN:** 26134020, 25928045, 25928044, 25928041, 25927027, 25927026, 25928003, 25928002, 25927020, 25927022, 23041041

**Contact Person/Phone Number:** Hilda Lafebre, Manager, Capital Projects & Environmental Planning/  
(650) 622-7842

**Review Period:** April 11, 2016 to May 10, 2016

**Project Description:** The Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB), which operates the San Francisco Bay Area's Caltrain passenger rail service, proposes to install a fourth track between the San Jose Diridon Station and the Centralized Equipment and Maintenance Operation Facility (CEMOF), in the City of San Jose, Santa Clara County, California. The new fourth track would be located on the east side of the three existing tracks. The existing tracks would be reconstructed to accommodate the new track and signals would be updated to accommodate the new track configuration. Track and signal work would also occur north of CEMOF, between Emory Street and Taylor Street. The purpose of the proposed project is to maintain operational flexibility and minimize delays by allowing trains to move to and from the maintenance facility without conflicting with passenger rail service. The additional track will improve operations at the CEMOF and Diridon Station and Caltrain's responsiveness to unanticipated events (delayed trains, weather, or mechanical issues), and serve as a temporary, emergency layover area for passenger trains. Project construction will take place in Fall 2018 and last for 24 months.

**Mitigated Negative Declaration:** In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA guidelines, the JPB prepared a Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the South Terminal Phase II Project. Based on Initial Study, staff determined that the project could not have a significant impact on the environment with the implementation of mitigation measures as noted in the IS/MND.

**Public Comment Period:** April 11, 2016 to May 10, 2016. The public and all affected agencies are hereby invited to review the IS/MND and submit written comments. The Draft IS/MND can be accessed at: [www.caltrain.com/stp2](http://www.caltrain.com/stp2). Comments are due May 10, 2016 and should be sent to Hilda Lafebre, Caltrain, P.O. Box 3006, San Carlos, CA 94070-1306 or [stp2@samtrans.com](mailto:stp2@samtrans.com).

**Public Meeting:** A Public Information Meeting on the South Terminal Phase II Track Improvements Project will be held on April 21, 2016 from 7p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Rose Garden Library Community Room at 1580 Naglee Avenue, San Jose, CA 95126.