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Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: 2023010061

Project Title: Merced Intermodal Track Connection Project

Lead Agency: San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority

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Project Location: Merced, Merced County

City *County*

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The Project would include a new track connection from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) corridor to the proposed integrated Merced High-Speed Rail (HSR) Station in downtown Merced between O and R Streets, in addition to a new platform that would allow for cross-platform transfer between the San Joaquins passenger rail and HSR. The Project only includes the construction of the track connection; it does not include the construction of the proposed integrated Merced HSR Station.

The Project would consist of the following:

? New passenger rail connection for the San Joaquins from BNSF north of State Route (SR) 59 to the southern terminus at the proposed integrated Merced HSR Station

? New aerial guideway that would connect into the east side of the HSR platform (which would be shared with the San Joaquins) at the proposed integrated Merced HSR Station, creating an elevated integrated platform with HSR

? Modification of the approved Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) Merced Layover and Maintenance Facility

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

Construction activities associated with the Project could affect grassland for Crotch's bumble bee, resulting in a potentially significant impact if Crotch's bumble bee are actually present at the time of disturbance. With implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-2.15: Avoidance and Minimization Measures for Crotch's Bumble Bee, the impact would be less than significant.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

Discontinuation of use of the existing Amtrak San Joaquins Station on 24th Street.
California High-Speed Rail Authority's plan to close G Street and a suggested underpass to allow traffic to flow.
Compromise or restriction of UPRRs access to current and future customers, including customers in the industrial park in Merced, effects to freight rail operations and capacity and the potential to prevent the ability to grade separate existing at-grade rail crossings.
Construction and operational effects to Razzari Auto Centers and potential displacement of other residents and businesses
Plans by California High-Speed Rail Authority to relocate the Senior Center and Boys and Girls Club.
Growth due to the Project (changing Merced from "small town" to "big town").
Potential effects to the surrounding neighborhoods including flood risk between SR 59 and Bear Creek and the potential for railroad berms to impede flood flows.
Potential increased noise from trains and the maintenance facility.
Potential increased traffic congestion on SR 59 and 16th Street.
Moving the San Joaquins trains from the BNSF line to the Union Pacific line between Stockton and Merced.
Ending San Joaquin service at Stockton given ACE service plans for extension of service from Stockton to Merced.
Avoidance of UP property and ROW.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

Regional Water Quality Control Board - Central Valley
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Central Valley Flood Protection Board
National Marine Fisheries Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Coast Guard
California Department of Transportation
California Public Utilities Commission
California State Lands Commission
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control Board
State Water Resources Control Board
Merced County
City of Merced