Print Form

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
County of: Merced County Clerk
2222 M St
Merced, CA 95340

From: (Public Agency): California High-Speed Rail Authority
770 L Street, Suite 620
Sacramento, CA 95814
(Address)

Project Title: South Merced Station Project

Project Applicant: California High-Speed Rail Authority

Project Location - Specific:

Adjacent to the High-Speed Rail alignment at Mission Avenue and State Route 99

Project Location - City: unincorporated area, south of City of Merced Project Location - County: Merced

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The California High-Speed Rail Authority has identified the need for the South Merced Station within Merced County to support passenger operations for the California High-Speed Rail system. This station will serve long-term operational needs of the system and provide passenger access and circulation adjacent to the approved high-speed rail (HSR) alignment.

The Project will include passenger platforms along the high-speed rail mainline, a headhouse structure for passenger circulation and amenities, multimodal access features, utility connections, and site improvements needed to support station operations. These facilities reflect the station planning and station area development considerations presented in Chapter 3.13 of the Merced to Fresno Final EIR/EIS. The station will also include other station area and operational features that support the high-speed rail system consistent with prior and future environmental documentation prepared for the project.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California High-Speed Rail Authority

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California High-Speed Rail Authority

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☐ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: _____
- ☒ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: California PRC Section 21080.70(b)

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed South Merced Station project is a passenger rail station adequately discussed in Chapter 3.13 of the certified California High-Speed Rail Authority Merced to Fresno Final EIR/EIS, incorporates applicable mitigation measures, is located adjacent to approved high-speed rail right-of-way, and is not located on natural or protected lands as defined in California PRC section 21067.5.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Stefan Galvez-Abadia Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (916) 324-1541

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: Stefan Galvez Date: 09/04/2026 Title: Director of Environmental

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

20260904_South Merced Station_NOE

Final Audit Report 2026-09-04

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