



**HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR
JOINT POWERS AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, October 9, 2025 – 2:00 p.m.

Members of the public are welcome to participate via computer or by phone. Please mute phones/computer audio, until you are called to speak.

HDC JPA Board Meeting Virtual Info:

Please Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89679654848?pwd=c2QvMbluafdTU3QqKfe3ATOaVWaoMh.1>

Meeting ID: 896 7965 4848 Passcode: 014848

TELECONFERENCE AVAILABLE AT THESE ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS

Kathryn Barger County of Los Angeles Hall of Administration 500 W. Temple Street Conference Room 864 Los Angeles, CA 90012	Elizabeth Becerra & Bob Harriman Victorville - City Hall 14343 Civic Drive Conference Room A Victorville, CA 92392	Gabriel Reyes & Daniel Ramos Adelanto – City Hall 11600 Air Express Way Adelanto, CA 92301
Lauren Hughes-Leslie Lancaster - City Hall 44933 Fern Avenue Conference Room A Lancaster, CA 93534	Eric Ohlsen Palmdale - City Hall 38300 Sierra Highway Suite B Palmdale, CA 93550	Ara Najarian 500 N. Brand Blvd Suite 830 Glendale, CA 91203

HDC JPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS

Chair Kathryn Barger, Supervisor, 5th Supervisorial District, Los Angeles County
Vice Chair Elizabeth Becerra, Mayor, City of Victorville
Gabriel Reyes, Mayor, City of Adelanto
Lauren Hughes-Leslie, Council Member, City of Lancaster
Eric Ohlsen, City of Palmdale
Ara Najarian, Director, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

HDC JPA BOARD MEMBER ALTERNATES

Vacant, City of Palmdale
Bob Harriman, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Victorville
Daniel Ramos, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Adelanto

HDC JPA STAFF

Executive Director: Arthur V. Sohikian
Legal Counsel: Laura Jacobson, Deputy County Counsel, Los Angeles County

OPEN SESSION

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – Kathryn Barger, Chair
- 2. ROLL CALL** – Arthur V. Sohikian, Secretary
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

HDC JPA is conducting business remotely. HDC JPA is committed to ensuring that our public meetings are accessible to the public and that the public can observe and address the meeting and to participate by providing written and oral comment on HDC matters. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Executive Director Arthur V. Sohikian at sohikian@highdesertcorrdir.org. At this time members of the public can address the HDC JPA Board of Directors regarding any items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the agency that are not separately listed on this agenda. When possible, lengthy testimony should be presented to the Board in writing and only pertinent points presented orally.

HDC JPA BOARD CONSENT CALENDAR

All items listed under the Consent Calendar are routine and may be enacted by one motion. Prior to the motion to consider any action by the Board, any public comments on any of the Consent Calendar items will be heard. There will be no separate action unless Board Members request items be removed from the Consent Calendar.

5. HDC JPA BOARD MEETING MINUTES/RECAP OF PROCEEDINGS

Recommended Action: Approve July 10, 2025, HDC JPA Board Meeting Minutes/Recap of Proceedings held via virtual zoom webinar format.

HDC JPA BOARD REGULAR CALENDAR

6. PROPOSED 2026 HDC JPA BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING CALENDAR

Recommended Action: Approve Proposed 2026 HDC JPA Board of Directors Meeting Calendar

- A. January 15, 2026, 2:00 to 3:30pm/virtual
- B. April 9, 2026, 2:00 to 3:30pm/virtual
- C. July 9, 2026, 2:00 to 3:30pm/virtual
- D. October 8, 2026, 2:00 to 3:30pm/virtual

7. RESOLUTION OF THE HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS AGENCY AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS AGENCY TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY AGREEMENTS WITH THE CALIFORNIA HIGH SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY AS THE LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY TO CONDUCT THE TASKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT WORK THAT IS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A RECORD OF DECISION

Recommended Action:

- A. Approve HDC JPA Resolution FY25/26-01 (Attachment A) of the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency authorizing the Executive Director of the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency to negotiate and execute all necessary agreements with the California High Speed Rail Authority as the Federal Lead Agency to complete all remaining tasks associated with the National Environmental Policy Act work that is required to obtain a Record of Decision.
- B. Authorize the Executive Director and Los Angeles County Counsel to execute all necessary agreements.

8. AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY AGREEMENTS WITH CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (CALTRANS) FOR THE HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR INTERCITY HIGH SPEED RAIL PROJECT

Recommended Action:

- A.** Authorize the Executive Director and Los Angeles County Counsel to Negotiate all necessary Agreements with Caltrans for the High Desert Corridor Intercity High Speed Rail Project.
- B.** Authorize the Executive Director and Los Angeles County Counsel to execute all necessary documents and agreements.

9. HDC JPA ENGINEERING AND DESIGN SERVICES UPDATE REPORT – *HDC JPA Executive Director, Director of Engineering & Consultants*

Recommended Action: *Receive and file report.*

10. FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS ADVISORY SERVICES UPDATE ON THE PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING THE HDC INTERCITY HIGH SPEED RAIL PROJECT FINANCIAL PLAN – *HDC JPA Executive Director & Consultants*

Recommended Action: *Receive and file report.*

11. HDC JPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – *HDC JPA Executive Director*

Recommended Action: *Receive and file report.*

12. HDC JPA BOARD MEMBER FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

13. ADJOURNMENT. Next HDC JPA Board of Directors Meeting is January 15, 2026, 2pm



AGENDA REPORT – BOARD ITEM 5

High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency

Date: October 9, 2025

To: Board of Director Members of the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency (HDC)

From: Arthur V. Sohikian, Executive Director

Subject: HDC JPA Board Meeting Minutes/Recap of Proceedings

Recommendation Action:

Approve July 10, 2025, HDC JPA Board Minutes/Recap of Proceedings held via virtual zoom webinar format.

1. July 10, 2025 HDC JPA CALL TO ORDER – Vice Chair Becerra calls virtual Board meeting to order at 2:01pm

2. ROLL CALL – Quorum Present, 5 voting members as follows:

HDC JPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS – present/voting members

Elizabeth Becerra, Mayor, City of Victorville

Gabriel Reyes, Mayor, City of Adelanto

Lauren Hughes-Leslie, Council Member, City of Lancaster

Eric Ohlsen, Council Member, City of Palmdale

Ara Najarian, Director, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

HDC JPA STAFF

Executive Director: Arthur V. Sohikian

Legal Counsel: Laura Jacobson, Deputy County Counsel, Los Angeles County

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Director Najarian

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – No Public Comment

5. HDC JPA BOARD MEETING MINUTES/RECAP OF PROCEEDINGS

Recommended Action: Approve April 17, 2025, HDC JPA Board Meeting Minutes/Recap of Proceedings held via virtual zoom webinar format.

Approved Item 5 by Motion by Vice Chair Becerra, second by Director Hughes-Leslie

EB	GR	LHL	EO	AN	
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	

6. **HDC JPA EEXECUTIVE DRIECTOR REPORT** – *HDC JPA Executive Director*
Recommended Action: *Receive and file report.*
7. **HDC JPA BOARD MEMBER FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**
8. **ADJOURNMENT 2:17pm.** Next HDC JPA Board Meeting is October 9, 2025, 2 pm



AGENDA REPORT – BOARD ITEM 6
High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency

Date: October 9, 2025

To: Board of Director Members of the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency (HDC)

From: Arthur V. Sohikian, Executive Director

Subject: Proposed 2026 HDC JPA Board of Directors Meeting Calendar

Recommended Action: Approve Proposed 2026 HDC JPA Board of Directors Meeting Calendar

- A. January 15, 2026, 2:00 to 3:30pm/virtual
- B. April 9, 2026, 2:00 to 3:30pm/virtual
- C. July 9, 2026, 2:00 to 3:30pm/virtual
- D. October 8, 2026, 2:00 to 3:30pm/virtual

For 2026, as the HDC HSR Project progresses we are anticipating more agenda items, so we are allocating 90 minutes for Board of Director meetings.



AGENDA REPORT – BOARD ITEM 7

High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency

Date: October 9, 2025

To: Board of Director Members of the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency (HDC)

From: Arthur V. Sohikian, Executive Director

Subject: RESOLUTION OF THE HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS AGENCY AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS AGENCY TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND AGREEMENTS WITH THE CALIFORNIA HIGH SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY AS THE LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY TO CONDUCT THE TASKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT WORK THAT IS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A RECORD OF DECISION

Recommended Action:

- A.** Approve HDC JPA Resolution FY25/26-01 (Attachment A) of the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency authorizing the Executive Director of the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency to negotiate all the necessary agreements with the California High Speed Rail Authority as the Federal Lead Agency to complete all remaining tasks associated with the National Environmental Policy Act work that is required to obtain a Record of Decision.
- B.** Authorize the Executive Director and Los Angeles County Counsel to execute all necessary agreements.

Background

The HDC JPA submitted the High Desert Intercity High Speed Rail Project petition for Reevaluation to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and Surface Transportation Board (STB) in April 2021. The FRA held a workshop in October 2023 for interested parties and in May 2024 asked the HDC JPA to focus on more planning and coordination with the CA High Speed Rail Project and the Brightline West Project before advancing further in the NEPA process.

In October 2024, the HDC JPA approached the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) to discuss the possibility that the CHSRA assume the role of NEPA Lead Agency through their NEPA delegation Authority agreement with the FRA.

In April 2025, the approved HDC JPA FY26 Budget included the CHSRA two-year cost estimate for the NEPA delegation/environmental clearance process.

In August 2025, the HDC JPA submitted an Environmental Studies Request Application Form to the CHSRA. The CHSRA submitted a request to FRA for NEPA Assignment to become the Federal Lead Agency to complete the NEPA process for HDC HSR.

Effective September 5, 2025, the CHSRA assumed the role of lead federal NEPA agency, the CHSRA letter is contained in Board Item 11 in Attachment A.

The High Desert Intercity High Speed Rail Project objective is to progress with the NEPA process to receive the Record of Decision (ROD) and Notice of Determination (NOD) approval. With the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) concurrence, this will complete environmental clearance for the high-speed rail project to advance to the next phase of Project Development.

The CHSRA requires a Resolution to assume the HDC HSR Project federal NEPA lead. The CHSRA Resolution FY25/26-01 is included as Attachment A.

October 9, 2025, High Desert Corridor JPA Board Item 7 – ATTACHMENT A

RESOLUTION NO. FY25/26-01

RESOLUTION OF THE HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS AGENCY AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS AGENCY TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY AGREEMENTS WITH THE CALIFORNIA HIGH SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY AS THE LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY TO CONDUCT THE TASKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT WORK THAT IS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A RECORD OF DECISION

WHEREAS, in April 2021, the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency (“HDC JPA”) submitted the High Desert Intercity High Speed Rail Project (HDC HSR) petition for Reevaluation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and Surface Transportation Board (STB);

WHEREAS, in May 2024 FRA asked the HDC JPA to focus on more planning and coordination with the California High Speed Rail Project and the Brightline West Project before advancing further in the NEPA environmental process;

WHEREAS, in April 2025, the HDC JPA approved HDC JPA FY26 Budget which included the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) two-year cost estimate for the NEPA delegation/environmental clearance process;

WHEREAS, in August 2025, the HDC JPA submitted an Environmental Studies Request Application and Reimbursement Agreement to the CHSRA seeking the CHSRA become the Federal Lead Agency to complete the NEPA process for HDC HSR to receive the Record of Decision (ROD) and Notice of Determination (NOD) approval;

WHEREAS, in August 2025, the CHSRA submitted a request to FRA for NEPA Assignment to become the Federal Lead Agency to complete the NEPA process for HDC HSR to receive the Record of Decision (ROD) and Notice of Determination (NOD) approval;

WHEREAS, the HDC JPA wishes to delegate authorization to execute the CHSRA Environmental Studies Report Application and Reimbursement Agreement and any amendments thereto to the HDC JPA Executive Director.



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency Board of Directors to delegate authorization to execute these and any other necessary agreements and any amendments thereto to the HDC JPA Executive Director.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency this 9th day of October 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTENTION

Kathryn Barger
Chair Board of Directors, HDC JPA

Attest:

Approved as to Form:

Arthur V. Sohikian
Executive Director, HDC JPA

Laura Jacobson
HDC JPA County Counsel



AGENDA REPORT – BOARD ITEM 8
High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency

Date: October 9, 2025

To: Board of Director Members of the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency (HDC)

From: Arthur V. Sohikian, Executive Director

Subject: Authorize the Executive Director to Negotiate and Execute All Necessary Agreements with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for the High Desert Corridor Intercity High Speed Rail Project

Recommended Action:

- A.** Authorize the Executive Director and Los Angeles County Counsel to Negotiate all necessary Agreements with Caltrans for the High Desert Corridor Intercity High Speed Rail Project.
- B.** Authorize the Executive Director and Los Angeles County Counsel to execute all necessary documents and agreements.

Background

As the HDC HSR approaches the Victor Valley Station and the connection with Brightline West (BLW) on the east, the HDC HSR alignment will cross U.S. Route 395 (US-395) and enter the right of way of Interstate 15 (I-15), both owned and operated by Caltrans. In order to complete federal environmental approval and eventual construction and operation over US-395 and in the I-15 ROW, the HDC JPA will need to enter into agreements with Caltrans, as BLW did.

On September 5, 2025, the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) assumed the role of Lead Federal Agency for the HDC HSR Project for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) approvals which is a key milestone for the Project. As the HDC HSR Project advances through the NEPA process to receive the Record of Decision (ROD) and Notice of Determination (NOD), the HDC HSR Project will need to coordinate with Caltrans District 8 on early design development, which requires several documents and agreements with Caltrans District 8 to initiate their support efforts.

Potential documents and agreements include, but are not limited to, a Letter of Intent, Project Initiation Documents (PIDs), Project Reports (PRs), Memorandum of Understanding, a Master Cooperative Agreement, and a Right of Way Agreement to proceed with engineering design and construction over US-395 and within the I-15 median. **If funding is needed for any of these Caltrans agreements, HDC JPA staff will include appropriate funds in the HDC JPA Budget which requires HDC JPA Board of Directors' approval.**



AGENDA REPORT – BOARD ITEM 9

High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency

Date: October 9, 2025

To: Board of Director Members of the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency (HDC JPA)

From: Arthur V. Sohikian, Executive Director & Elizabeth Lun, Director of Engineering

Subject: HDC JPA Engineering and Design Services Update Report

Recommended Action: Receive and File Report

Background:

On April 17, 2025, the HDC JPA Board of Directors approved award of a contract to HDR Engineering, Inc., for Engineering, Design and Related Advisory Services (EDS) for the High-Speed Rail Project for a not-to-exceed contract amount of \$42,000,000 plus a 25% contingency of the contractual amount to be exercised at the discretion of the HDC JPA. The contractual agreement is for a five-year term with three additional two-year options to be exercised at the discretion of the HDC JPA. The contract includes a 23% DBE contractor participation.

The EDS Consultant was brought under contract in May 2025. Their services provide project management, engineering, and advisory resources through a range of activities including:

- **Engineering and Design Services** - advance conceptual design to define the project adequately for environmental clearance and establish right-of-way requirements
- **Cost Estimation, Scheduling, Value Engineering** - provide cost estimates, schedules, and value engineering/risk management services that are aligned with Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Guidance on implementation of railroad capital projects
- **Real Property Identification, Planning, & Acquisition** - provide support for right-of-way/real property identification, planning, and acquisition strategy
- **Stakeholder Coordination** - ongoing engagement with key stakeholders, identification of issues and strategies relating to environmental approvals - provide input and materials to support environmental review, strategy, and project planning as they relate to design and right of-way
- **Support of Business Strategy and Procurement** - Support HDC JPA with development of business and procurement strategy recommendations for Project implementation
- **Optional Scope: Preliminary Eng. Design Services** – prepare preliminary engineering plans, specifications and cost estimates (up to 30% PS&E) for the HSR component and related infrastructure to support the HDC JPA in coordination with the FRA

Discussion:

The first task order was issued a Notice-to-Proceed on May 27, 2025, encompassing the first fiscal year activities through June 2026 in an amount not to exceed \$998,414 in FY2025 and \$2,480,000 in FY2026. It included key early engineering and design activities necessary to define the Project's technical basis, support the NEPA re-evaluation process to achieve the Record of Decision (ROD), and to prepare for subsequent phases.

Major activities/accomplishments for this quarter:

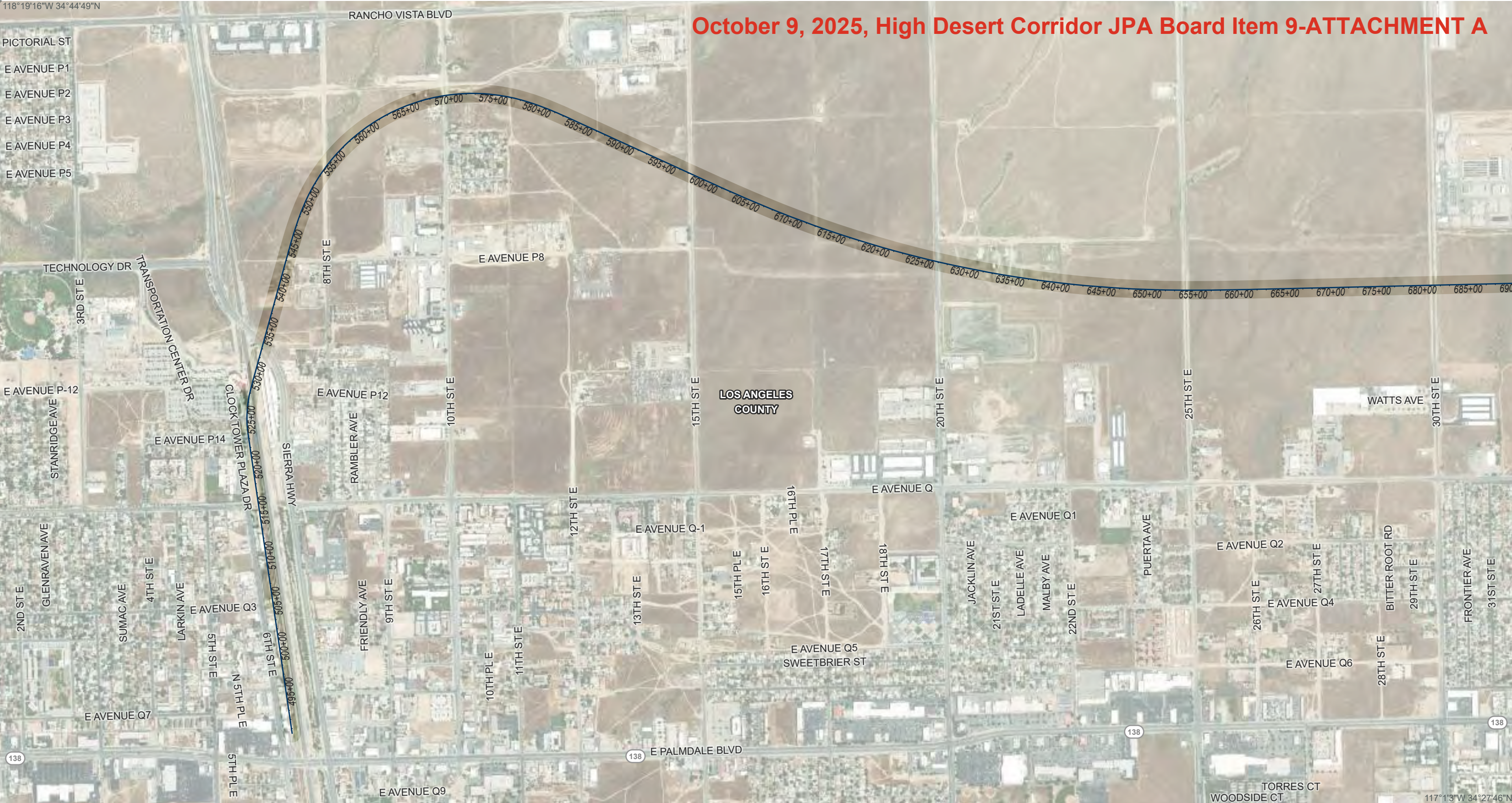
- Finalized HDC track alignment (See Attachment A for map of the alignment)
- Finalized project impacts/footprint delineation to support environmental clearance and define the Area of Potential Effects (APE)
- Finalized Draft Geotechnical Exploration Plan to scope anticipated field activities
- Continued project management, contract administration, and other commercial management activities
- Facilitated Project Development Team (PDT) coordination and meetings with JPA Management and other Project consultants
- Continued to acquire available reference documents from Project stakeholders
- Advanced conceptual design utilizing project-specific Basis of Design (BOD) with consideration of Brightline West (BLW) and California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) standards and guidelines
- Obtained utility as-builts & record plans to generate corridor-wide utility base mapping
- Supported Right-of-Way and Real Property Consultant with identification of ROW needs for the Project
- Initiated early coordination with key stakeholders including BLW, CHSRA, Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), United States Air Force (USAF), Caltrans, and others

Key upcoming activities:

- Continue activities in above-mentioned areas
- Advance conceptual design of mainline tracks, local roadway connectivity, station integration, and grade separations
- Evaluate interoperability requirements with BLW and CHSRA systems including track, systems, stations, seismic design, and other components
- Identify right-of-way needs and advance conceptual right-of-way plans
- Advance utility base mapping and determine utility conflicts
- Continue coordination with key stakeholders such as BLW, CHSRA, Caltrans, corridor cities, San Bernardino County, and Los Angeles County
- Support development of HDC Financial Plan
- Support HDC JPA in updating the draft Service Development Plan

Attachments:

Attachment A – High Desert Corridor Project Alignment Map



**HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR PROJECT ALIGNMENT
MAP 1 OF 23**

— High Desert Corridor Alignment

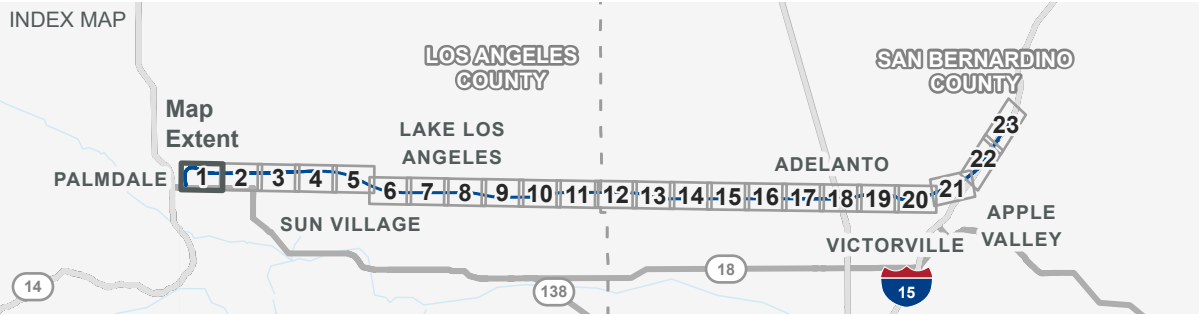


**High Desert
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CONCEPTUAL ALIGNMENT PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
PURPOSES ONLY – SUBJECT TO CHANGE



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118°19'16"W 34°44'49"N



117°1'3"W 34°27'46"N

High Desert Corridor Project Alignment

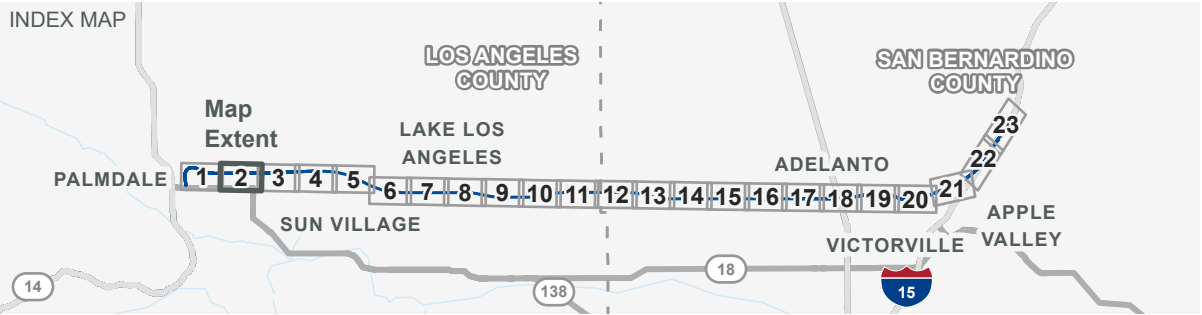
Map 2 of 23

High Desert Corridor Alignment



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HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR PROJECT ALIGNMENT MAP 3 OF 23

— High Desert Corridor Alignment

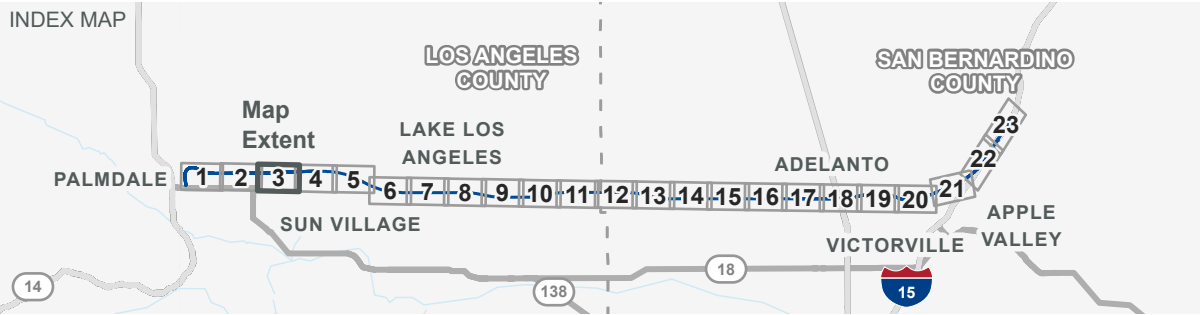


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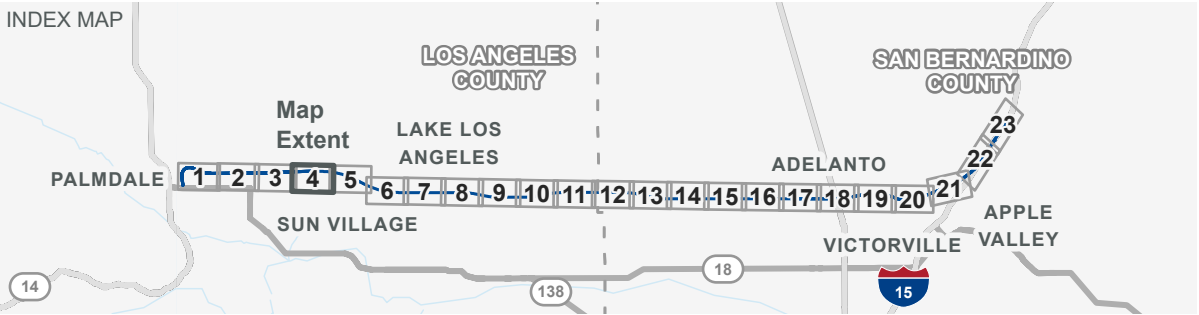
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HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR PROJECT ALIGNMENT MAP 4 OF 23

High Desert Corridor Alignment





HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR PROJECT ALIGNMENT
MAP 5 OF 23

— High Desert Corridor Alignment



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HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR PROJECT ALIGNMENT MAP 6 OF 23

High Desert Corridor Alignment

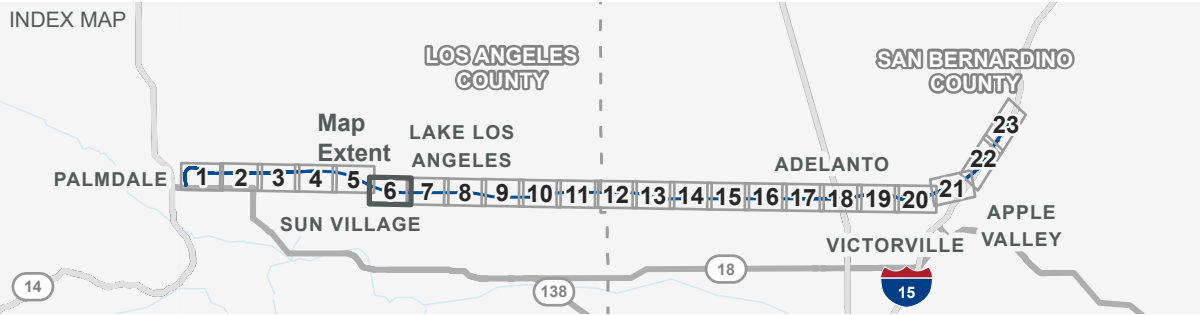


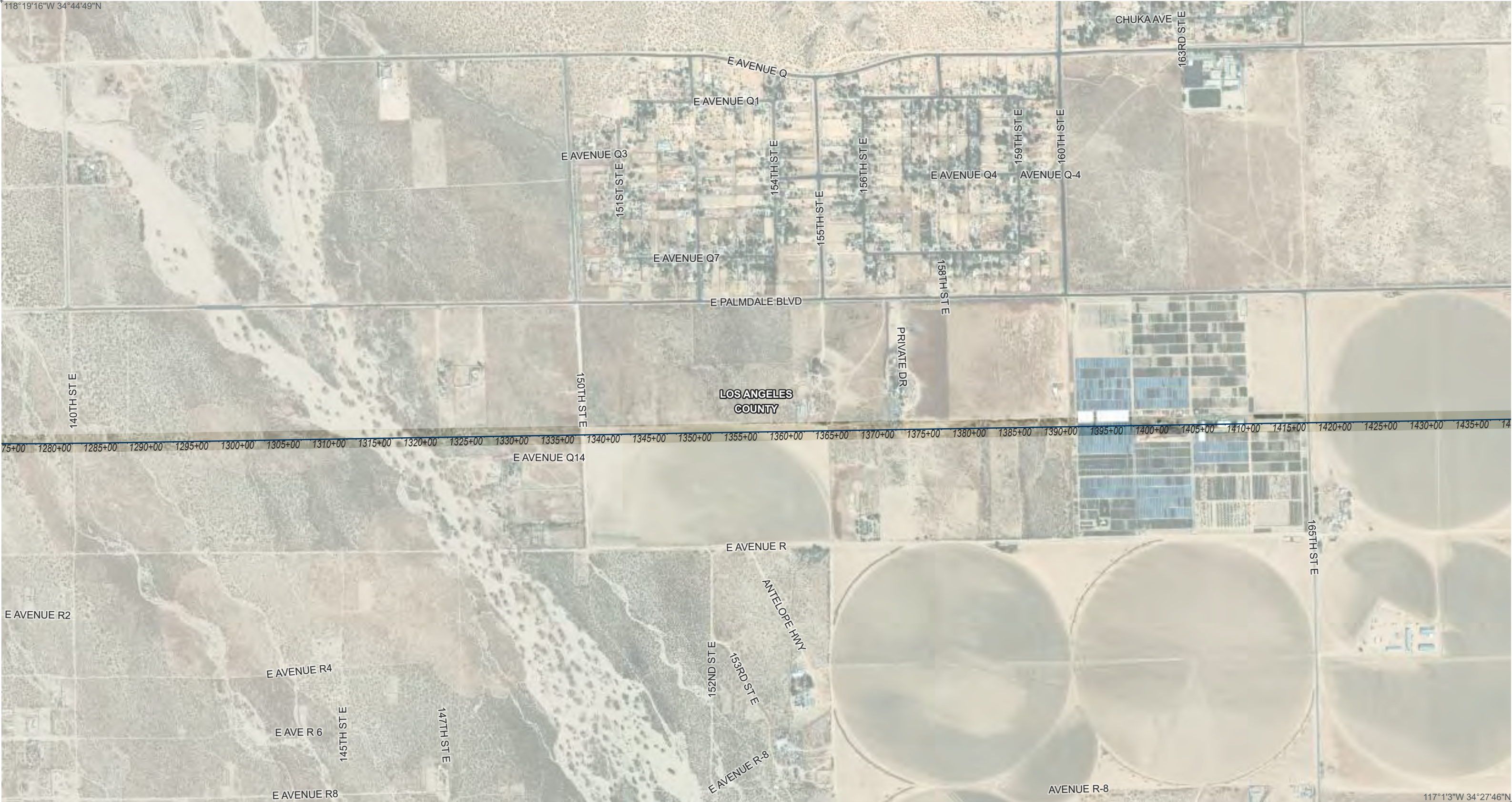
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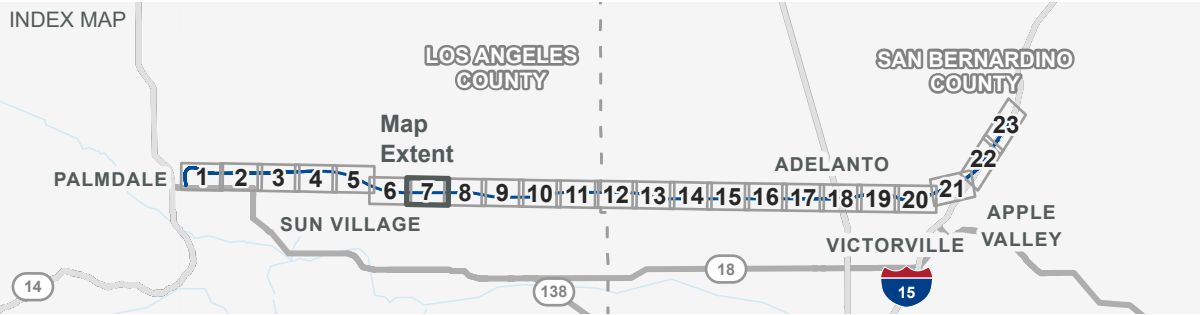
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HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR PROJECT ALIGNMENT MAP 7 OF 23

High Desert Corridor Alignment





HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR PROJECT ALIGNMENT
MAP 8 OF 23

— High Desert Corridor Alignment

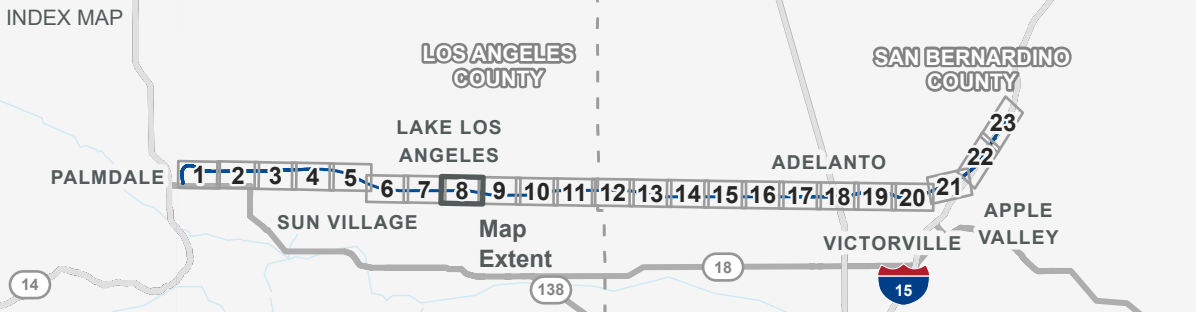


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High Desert Corridor Project Alignment

Map 9 of 23

High Desert Corridor Alignment

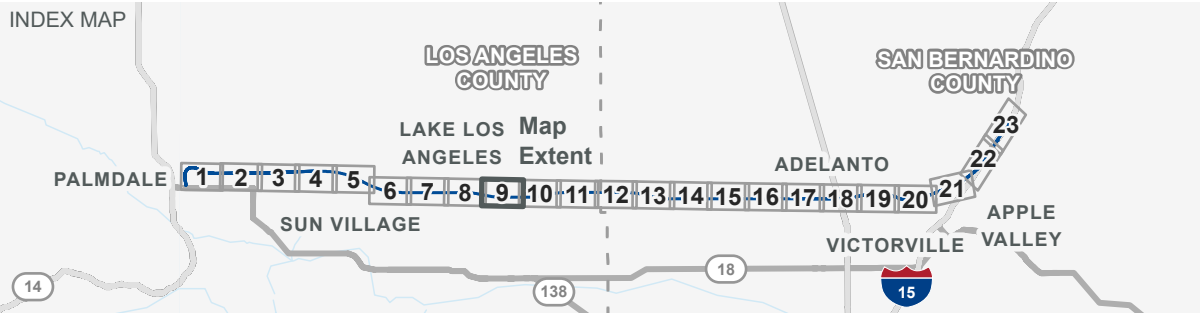


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HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR PROJECT ALIGNMENT
MAP 10 OF 23

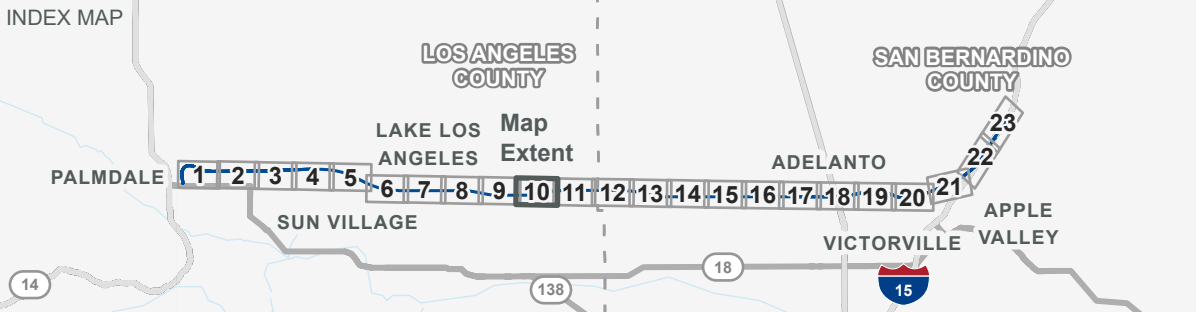
High Desert Corridor Alignment

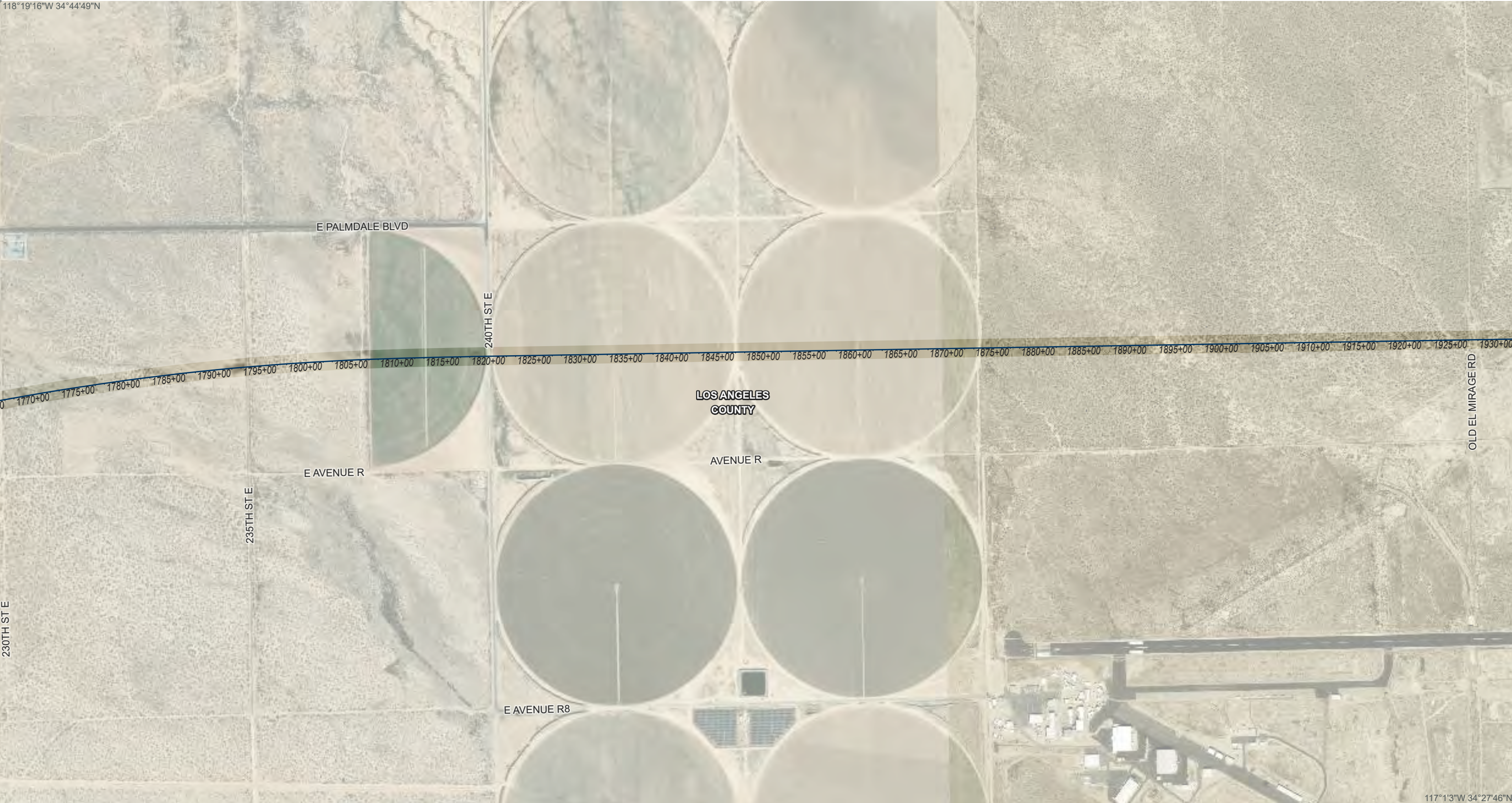


CONCEPTUAL ALIGNMENT PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
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HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR PROJECT ALIGNMENT MAP 11 OF 23

High Desert Corridor Alignment

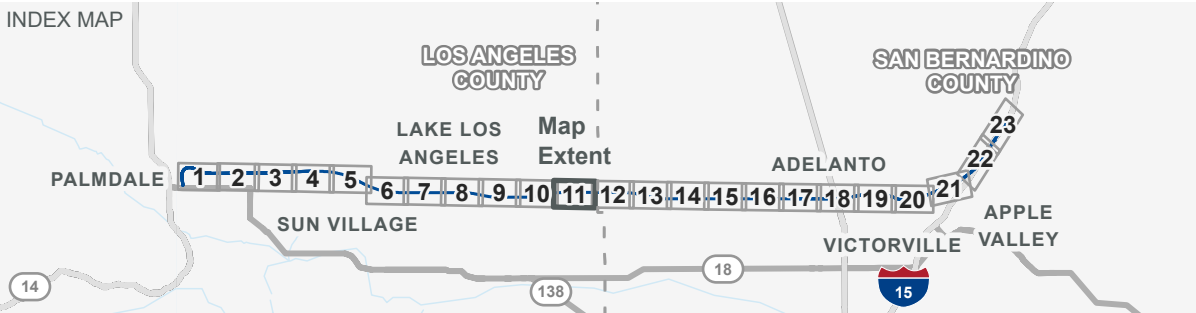


**High Desert
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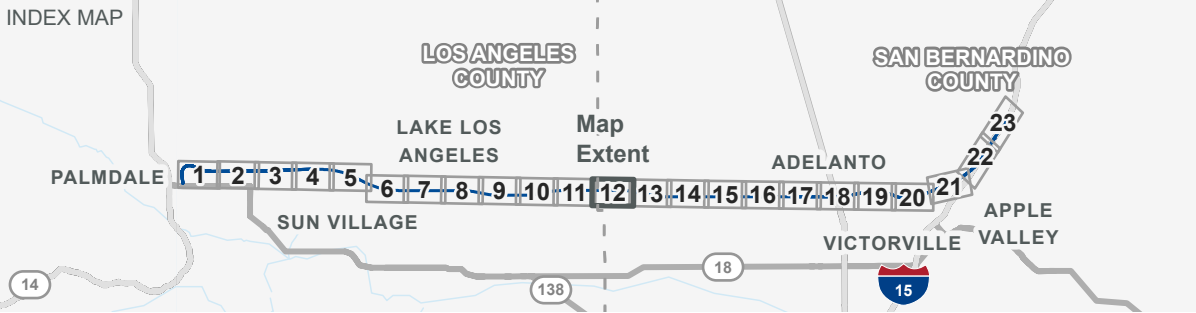
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HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR PROJECT ALIGNMENT
MAP 12 OF 23

— High Desert Corridor Alignment





High Desert Corridor Project Alignment Map 13 of 23

High Desert Corridor Alignment

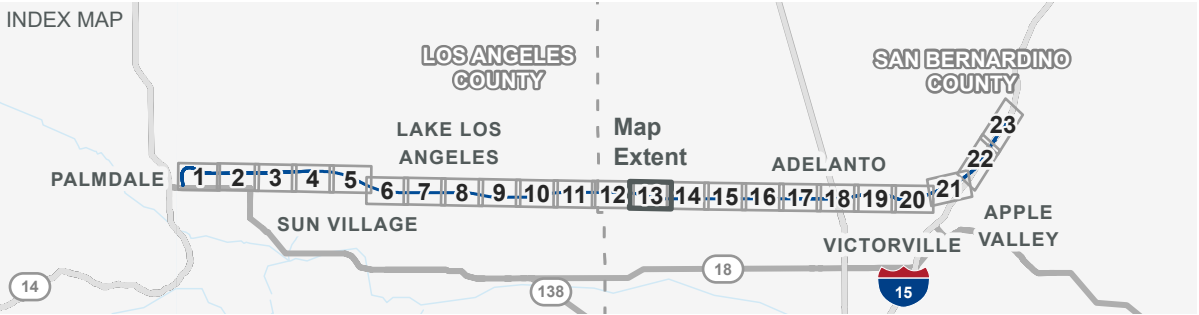


**High Desert
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CONCEPTUAL ALIGNMENT PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
PURPOSES ONLY – SUBJECT TO CHANGE



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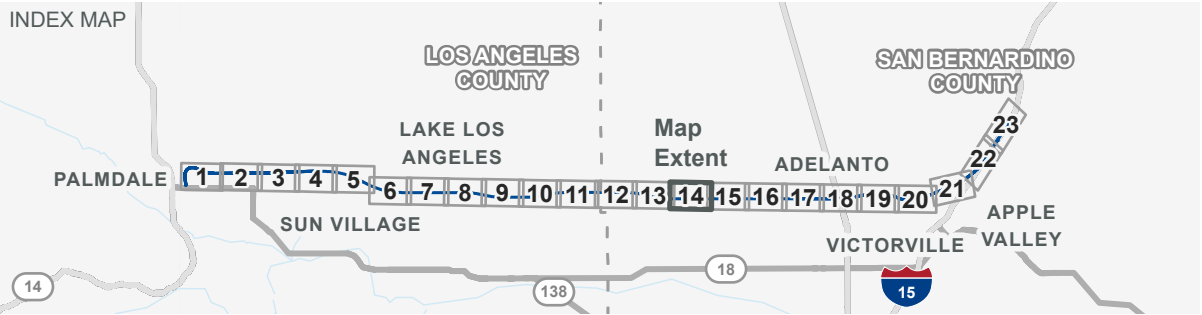
High Desert Corridor Project Alignment Map 14 of 23

High Desert Corridor Alignment



CONCEPTUAL ALIGNMENT PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
PURPOSES ONLY – SUBJECT TO CHANGE







HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR PROJECT ALIGNMENT
MAP 15 OF 23

— High Desert Corridor Alignment



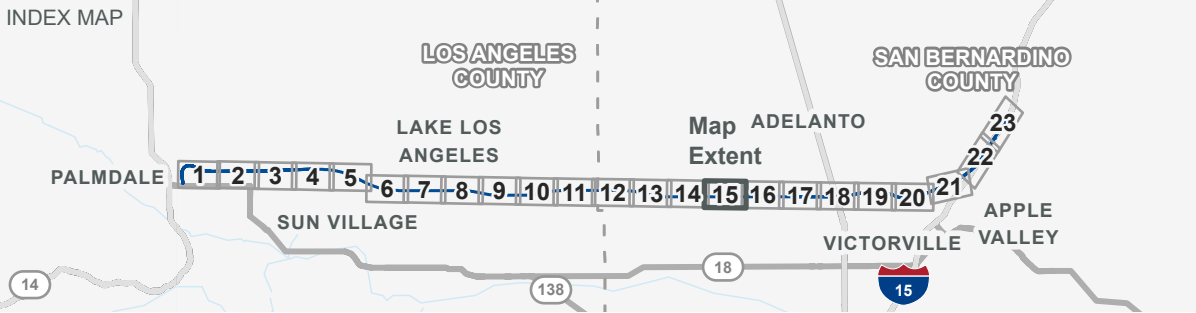
High Desert Corridor
JOINT POWERS AGENCY

CONCEPTUAL ALIGNMENT PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PURPOSES ONLY – SUBJECT TO CHANGE



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HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR PROJECT ALIGNMENT MAP 16 OF 23

High Desert Corridor Alignment

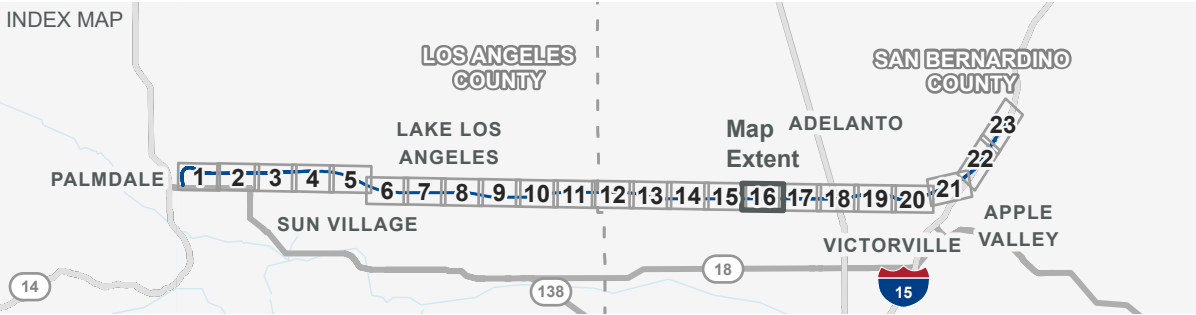


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CONCEPTUAL ALIGNMENT PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
PURPOSES ONLY – SUBJECT TO CHANGE



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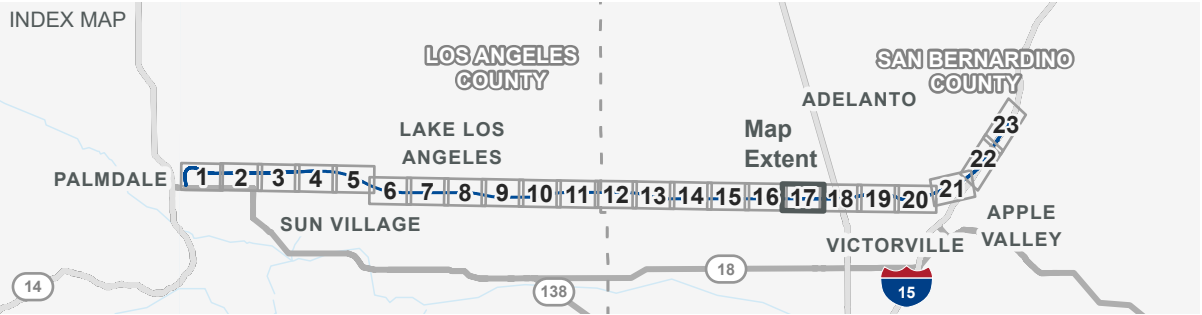
High Desert Corridor Project Alignment

Map 17 of 23

High Desert Corridor Alignment



CONCEPTUAL ALIGNMENT PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PURPOSES ONLY – SUBJECT TO CHANGE





HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR PROJECT ALIGNMENT
MAP 18 OF 23

— High Desert Corridor Alignment

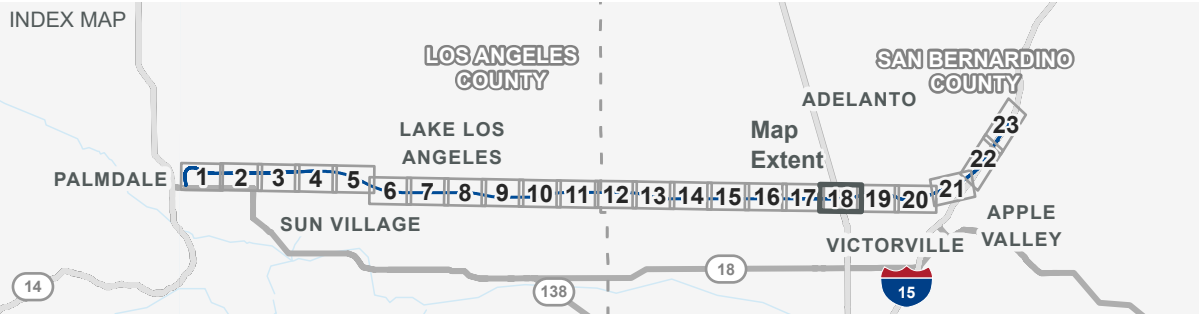


**High Desert
Corridor**
JOINT POWERS AGENCY

CONCEPTUAL ALIGNMENT PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
PURPOSES ONLY – SUBJECT TO CHANGE



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**HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR PROJECT ALIGNMENT
MAP 19 OF 23**

— High Desert Corridor Alignment



**High Desert
Corridor**
JOINT POWERS AGENCY

CONCEPTUAL ALIGNMENT PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
PURPOSES ONLY – SUBJECT TO CHANGE



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HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR PROJECT ALIGNMENT
MAP 20 OF 23

— High Desert Corridor Alignment



**High Desert
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CONCEPTUAL ALIGNMENT PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
PURPOSES ONLY – SUBJECT TO CHANGE



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HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR PROJECT ALIGNMENT MAP 21 OF 23

— High Desert Corridor Alignment





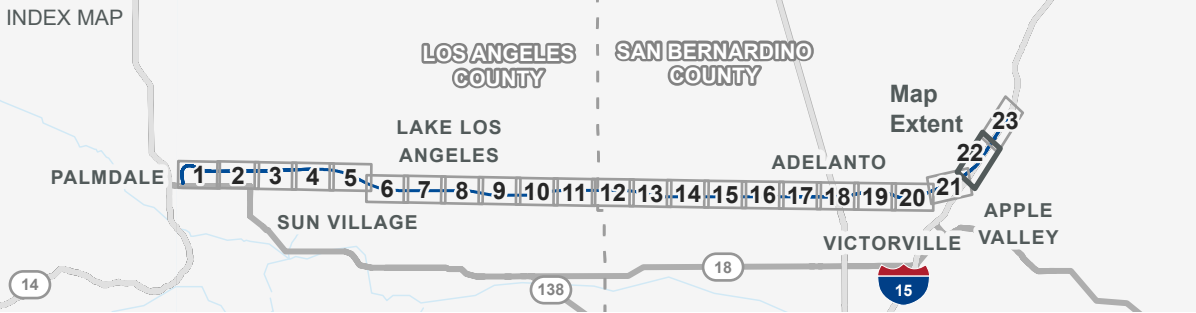
HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR PROJECT ALIGNMENT
MAP 22 OF 23

— High Desert Corridor Alignment



CONCEPTUAL ALIGNMENT PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
PURPOSES ONLY – SUBJECT TO CHANGE







High Desert Corridor Project Alignment

Map 23 of 23

High Desert Corridor Alignment

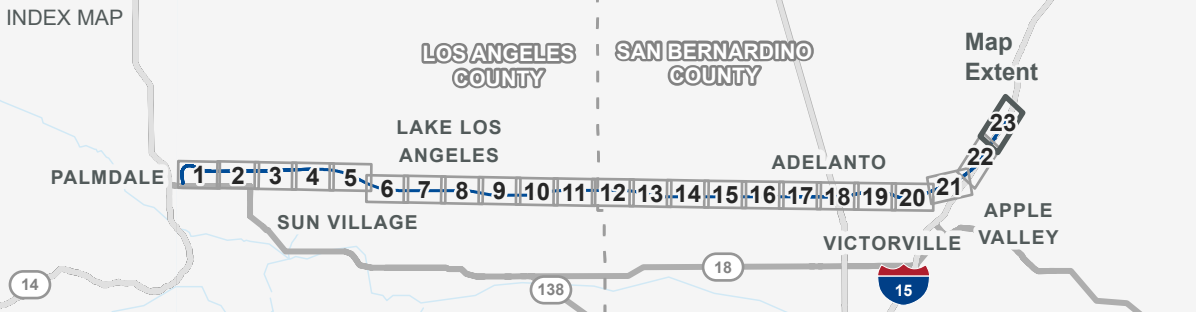


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CONCEPTUAL ALIGNMENT PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
PURPOSES ONLY – SUBJECT TO CHANGE



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AGENDA REPORT – BOARD ITEM 10
High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency

Date: October 9, 2025

To: Board of Director Members of the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency (HDC)

From: Arthur V. Sohikian, Executive Director

Subject: FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS ADVISORY SERVICES UPDATE ON THE PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING THE HDC INTERCITY HIGH SPEED RAIL PROJECT FINANCIAL PLAN

Recommended Action: *Receive and file report.*

Background

The development of a financial plan for the HDC HSR Project is an output of the Project's broader financial strategy, which includes:

- Understanding the universe of funding and financing sources
- Identifying trade-offs related to business models, delivery models and financing options
- Analyzing project risks
- Integrating with the technical work defining the project.

The financial plan will evolve over time, as the project is more fully defined, including capital and operating cost estimates; based on the available and potential funding and financing tools and sources; and in conjunction with potential project delivery options.

The Financial and Business Advisory team has begun to develop the framework for the financial plan as part of the larger financial strategy. Among the activities feeding into this work have been the development of the budget and financial reporting tool, early engagement with potential public and private partners, identification of funding and financing sources, and coordination with the Engineering Design and Related Services team on project elements. Development of the financial plan is highly dependent on the completion of the environmental clearance process through the National Environmental Policy Act, and will advance based on key inputs from the Service Development Plan.

The presentation provides an overview of the financial plan development process, Attachment A.



**HIGH DESERT
CORRIDOR**
JOINT POWERS AGENCY

HDC JPA October 9 2025 Board Agenda Item 10 Financial Plan Overview - Attachment A

Financial Plan Development Overview

October 9, 2025

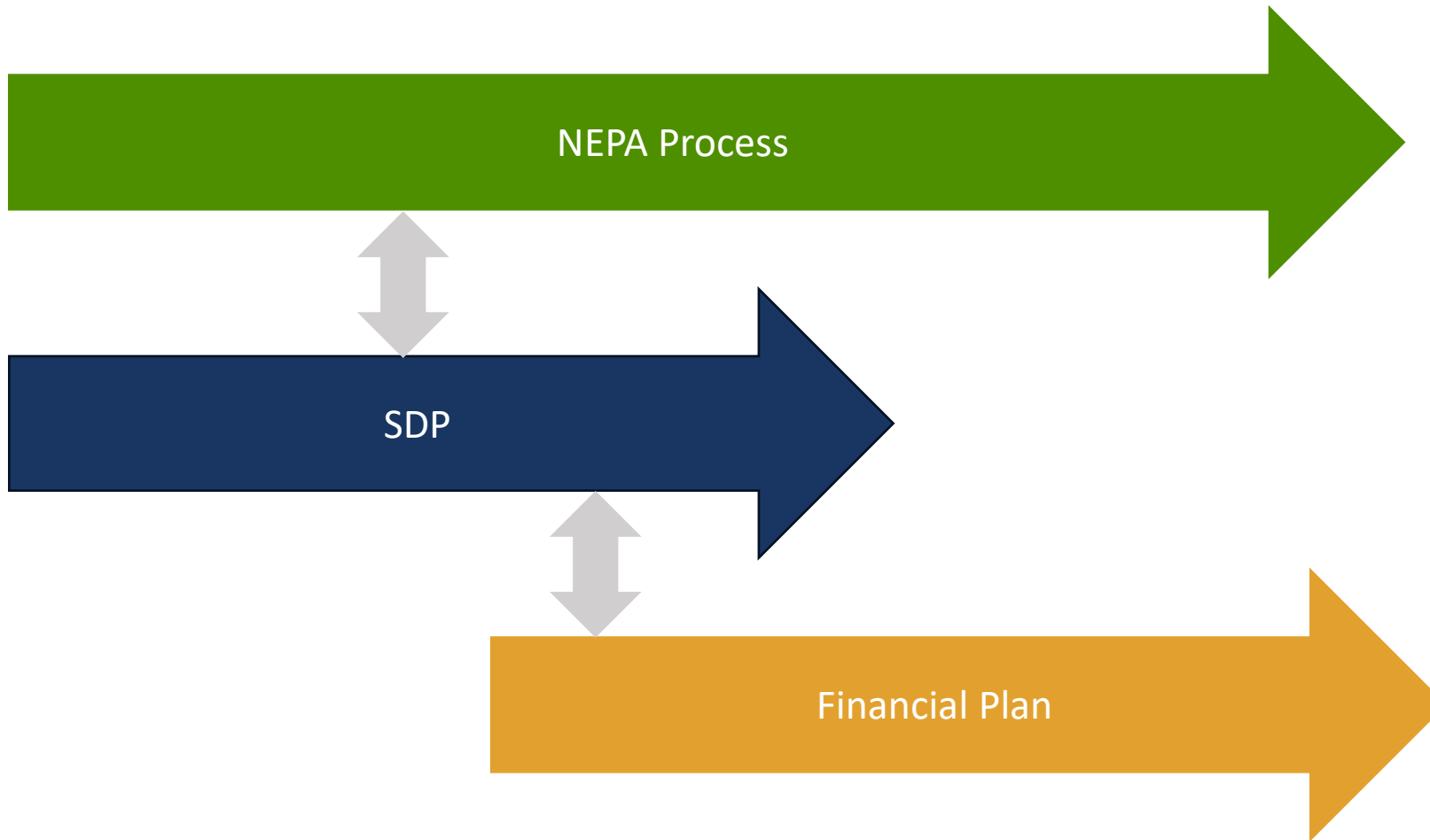
Contents

- Financial Plan Objectives
- Financial Plan Process
- Key Decision Points Impacting Funding/Financing Strategy
- Project Costs and Revenue Sources
- Financial Plan Contents
- Financial Strategy Development

Financial Plan Objectives

- Incorporate and refine project capital cost estimates, existing/committed funding and projected need
 - Will be informed by cost estimates from Service Development Plan
 - Develop long-term funding and financing options for a range of delivery and scope scenarios
 - Funding/Financing considerations drive Service Development Plan scenarios
 - Alternative delivery structures will be considered
- Identify key variables and risks impacting funding
- Identify committed and potential future funding and financing sources
- Develop strategies to secure funding and financing for both capital and O&M

Financial Plan Process



- Financial Plan is dependent on cost estimates, ridership estimates and service planning scenarios to be developed under the SDP
- Financial feasibility of scenarios will also inform SDP
- Finalization of NEPA is required to advance funding and operating discussions with partners
- Evolves as project is more fully defined and depending on funding, financing and project delivery options

Key Decisions Points Impacting Financial Plan Strategy

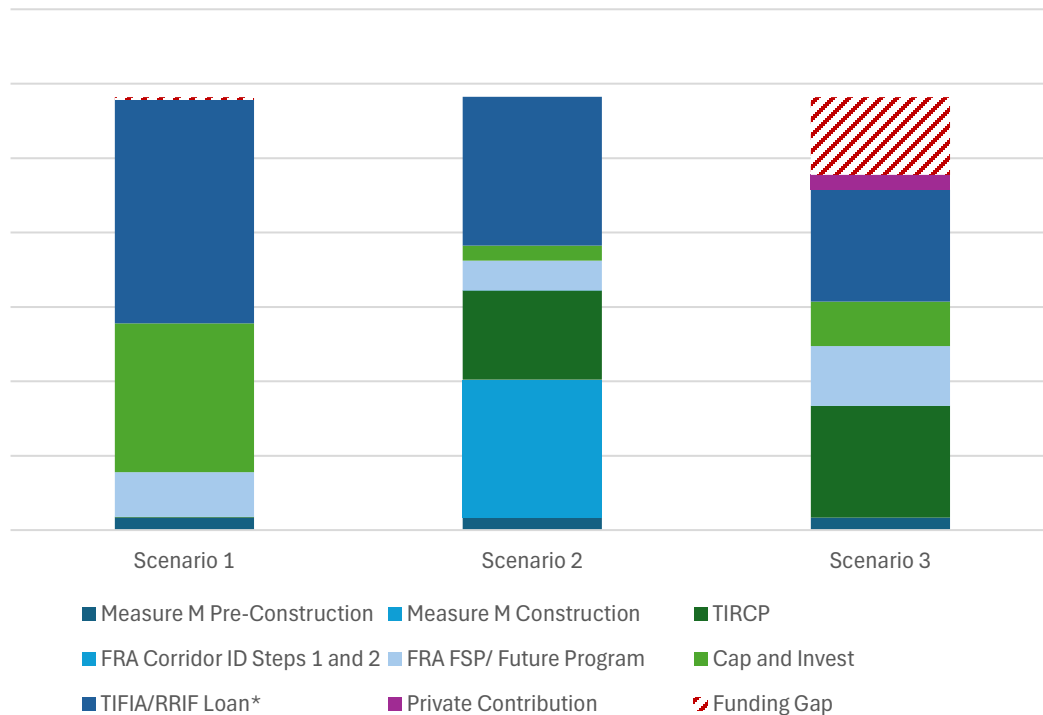
- What will be the business model?
 - Who operates; integration with BLW, CAHSR; ancillary revenue opportunities
 - Major capital cost impacts: vehicle procurement, need for O&M facility
 - Major O&M impact: need to find long-term O&M funding source to supplement fare revenue
- What funding and financing sources are potentially available?
- How will the project be delivered?
 - P3 option could unlock private financing and equity
- Will the project be phased?
 - When will CAHSR connection be delivered?

Refinement and Use of Capital and O&M Cost Estimates

- Estimates consider entire 54-mile corridor, interim Palmdale Station and maintenance needs
- Multiple scenarios will show variability in capital and O&M costs
- Scenarios will also look at delivery options and different operating models
- Projected operating revenues include fare and ancillary revenues, and will be refined in Financial Plan to minimize need for a subsidy
- Financial plan considerations will feed into technical work on SDP
- Options for closing any gap will include identification of funding/financing sources and consideration of scope changes/value engineering

Potential Project Capital Funding and Financing Sources

Illustrative Funding Scenarios



* Backed by Measure M in Scenario 1, State funds in Scenarios 2 and 3

- Identified/Committed Funding – Local, State and Federal
 - Measure M: \$170M for Planning and \$1.85B Construction
 - TIRCP: \$8M for planning/development
 - Corridor Identification and Development (CID): \$0.5M Step 1, \$2.2M Step 2 (pending NOFO release)
- Potential Funding and Financing Sources include:
 - TIFIA, RRIF loans, Private Activity Bonds (if P3 delivery)
 - TIRCP, Cap-and-Invest discretionary
 - Federal State Partnership or future FRA capital program
 - Private equity and financing
 - Value capture
 - Early engagement underway to explore potential sources and partners, both public and private

Financial Plan Outline

1. Introduction
2. Implementation and Partnerships
 1. Strategic Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement
 2. Project Delivery Options
 3. Project Operating Models
3. Project Capital Costs
4. Project O&M Costs
5. Project Revenue Sources
6. Project Financial Risks and Uncertainties
7. Project Funding and Financing Strategies
8. Next Steps

Financial Strategy Development

- Financial Plan is an output of the Project's broader financial strategy, important to:
 - Understand universe of funding sources
 - Identify trade-offs related to business models, delivery models and financing options
 - Analyze project risks
- Completion of NEPA is needed to:
 - Initiate meaningful discussions with Build America Bureau on eligibility for TIFIA/RRIF loan
 - Secure design/construction grant funding from FRA, CalSTA
 - Provide potential private sector partners assurance of project de-risking and progress
 - And therefore, advance the financial and delivery strategy



AGENDA REPORT – BOARD ITEM 11

High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency

Date: October 9, 2025

To: Board of Director Members of the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency (HDC JPA)

From: Arthur V. Sohikian, Executive Director

Subject: HDC JPA Executive Director Report

Recommended Action: Receive and File Report

1. HDC JPA FY25 Work Program Implementation

On May 22, 2025, the Metro Board of Directors unanimously approved the HDC JPA FY26 Budget Work Program of \$11,937,350 from Measure M funds. HDC staff in concluding the FY25 Work Plan activities including: 1) the creation of a financial dashboard for the HDC JPA, 2) continue to work on the Federal Railroad Administration Corridor Identification and Development Program (FRA CID) Service Development and Funding Plan with Metro, 3) on-board the Engineering, Design and Related Services team, and 4) continue work on the HDC Intercity High Speed Rail Project environmental clearance approvals.

The Financial & Business Advisory Support and Engineering, Design and Related Services Teams are currently working with HDC JPA Executive Management on various tasks. Updates are included as part of Attachment A and as presented under Board Item 9.

2. High Desert Intercity High Speed Rail Project in Federal NEPA Environmental Process

The HDC JPA submitted the High Desert Intercity High Speed Rail Project petition for Reevaluation to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and Surface Transportation Board (STB) in April 2021. The FRA held a workshop in October 2023 for interested parties and in May 2024 asked the HDC JPA to focus on more planning and coordination with the CA High Speed Rail Project and the Brightline West Project before advancing further in the NEPA process.

In October 2024, the HDC JPA approached the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) to discuss the possibility that the CHSRA assume the role of NEPA Lead Agency through their NEPA delegation Authority agreement with the FRA. The High Desert Intercity High Speed Rail Project objective is to progress with the NEPA process to receive the Record of Decision (ROD) and Notice of Determination (NOD) approval. With the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) concurrence, this will complete environmental clearance for the high-speed rail project to advance to the next phase of Project Development.

In September 2025, the CHSRA sent a letter to the HDC JPA assuming the role of lead federal NEPA agency. The CHSRA letter is contained in Attachment A.

3. HDC JPA Submits Service Development Plan (SDP) Stage 2 Grant Information to FRA

In November 2024, and with revisions in February 2025, the HDC JPA submitted a FRA Corridor ID Stage 2 grant Scope, Budget and Timeline information for roughly \$2.3 million to complete the SDP. The Stage 2 grant continues to be in review with the FRA.

In August 2020, the Metro Board of Directors approved the funding and creation of the HDC Intercity Rail Service Development Plan & Funding Plan (SDP) to be submitted to Federal Railroad Administration. To date, HDC SDP has been funded with:

- \$6.0 million of HDC Measure M funds (Local funds). Allocated \$4.0 million in August 2020 and additional \$2 million for SDP Gap Analysis in May 2024.
- \$1.375 million in CalSTA 2018 Transit Intercity Rail Capital Plan State grant funds under the Network Integration category (CA State funds), and
- \$625,000 from Brightline West (\$250,000 in cash and \$375,000 of in-kind contributions) (private funds).
- \$500,000 awarded in Federal Railroad Administration Corridor ID Program Grant – obligated \$100,000 in August 2024

4. CA Trade and Invest and CHSRA Releases 2025 Supplement Project Update Report:

The Governor signed the California Legislature plan to reauthorize California's Cap-and-invest Program, securing a historic commitment of \$1 billion for the CHSRA program annually through 2045. California provides the largest guaranteed infusion of funding to date, resolves all identified funding gaps for the Early Operating Segment in the Central Valley and opens the door for meaningful public-private engagement with the program. The reauthorized Cap-and-Invest Program also allocates \$400 million to the California Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) that HDC JPA will pursue. In 2023, the state awarded \$8 million in grant funds through the TIRCP – funding was authorized in June 2025 and will be used to advance the project and underscores the viability of continued investment through the Cap-and-Invest Program.

CHSRA 2025 Supplemental Project Update Report:

In August 2025, CHSRA released a Supplemental Project Update Report to the California Legislature. According to CHSRA, the report outlines a clear path towards a commercially viable high-speed rail network that provides utility for millions of Californians. Included are proposed funding and legislative enhancements that the State can take to address the CHSRA's most pressing program delivery challenges.

The Supplemental Update Report includes scenarios with preliminary cost estimates, ridership and revenue projections, and funding requirements that play a crucial role in attracting potential Public-Private-Partnerships (P3s) for project delivery. It will also set the pace for construction of extensions of the system north to San Francisco and Gilroy and south to Northern Los Angeles County in Palmdale. With the proposed funding and legislative enhancements in place, the Authority estimates it can deliver these segments by 2038 to 2039 through a successful P3. The map below was included in the supplemental update.

California High-Speed Rail

San Francisco – Gilroy – Palmdale with Merced Extension

SF - Gilroy – Palmdale

An expanded high-speed rail infrastructure from Gilroy to Palmdale that supports continuing service to San Francisco & connects with Metrolink in Palmdale, serves a downtown Bakersfield station, & will utilize the High-Desert Corridor to connect to Brightline West in Victor Valley. Includes the delivery of the Merced extension.



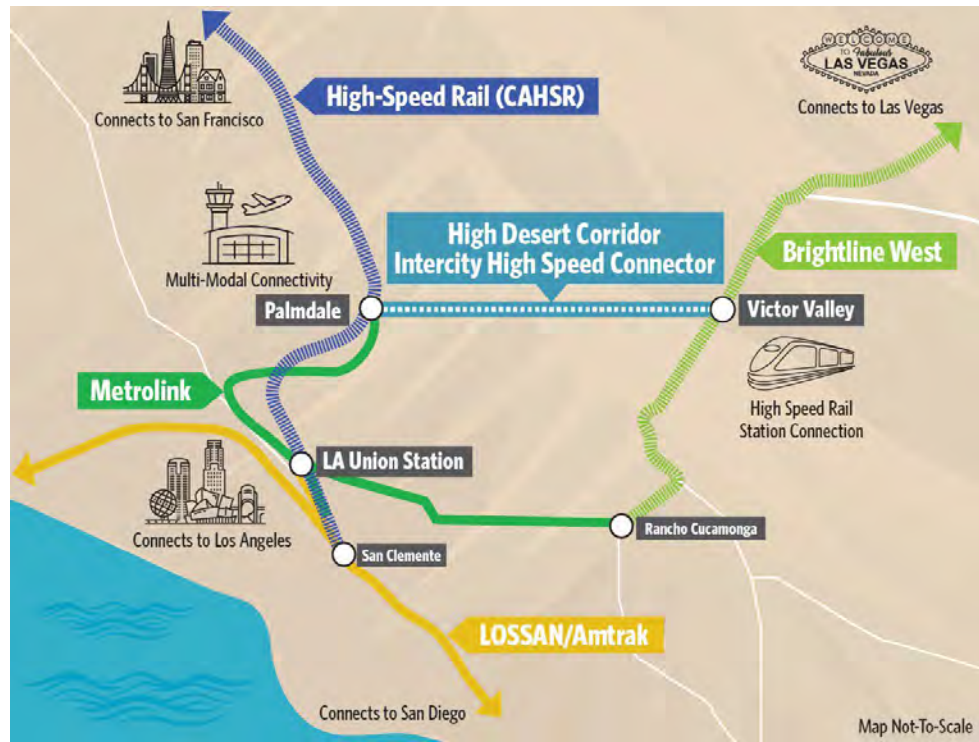
5. HDC High Speed Rail Project Presence Continues to Expand

In 2025, the HDC JPA has been a speaker at numerous events, such as Women In Transportation, Los Angeles Chapter High Speed Rail event, InfraDay 2025 in Los Angeles, US HSR Association 2025 Annual Conference, the APTA 2025 Rail Conference, CA Assembly Los Angeles County Delegation, the Construction Network, the Asian American Architects/Engineers Association, the American Public Works Association, the American Planning Association, and the American Council of Engineering Companies.

The main talking point used is the High Desert Corridor Intercity High Speed Rail project is a strategic 54-mile connector, linking California's 500+ mile High-Speed Rail network at the Palmdale HSR Station to the 200+ mile Brightline West project to Las Vegas, Nevada at the Victor Valley HSR Station. This is not just about one project, it is about being part of a larger, interconnected Southwest Region High-Speed Rail Network. Together, these projects will provide a seamless passenger connection through a cohesive high speed rail network.

6. High Desert Intercity High Speed Rail Project Benefits, Maps, Highlights

HDC Project Map and Connection to State Network



Project Benefits

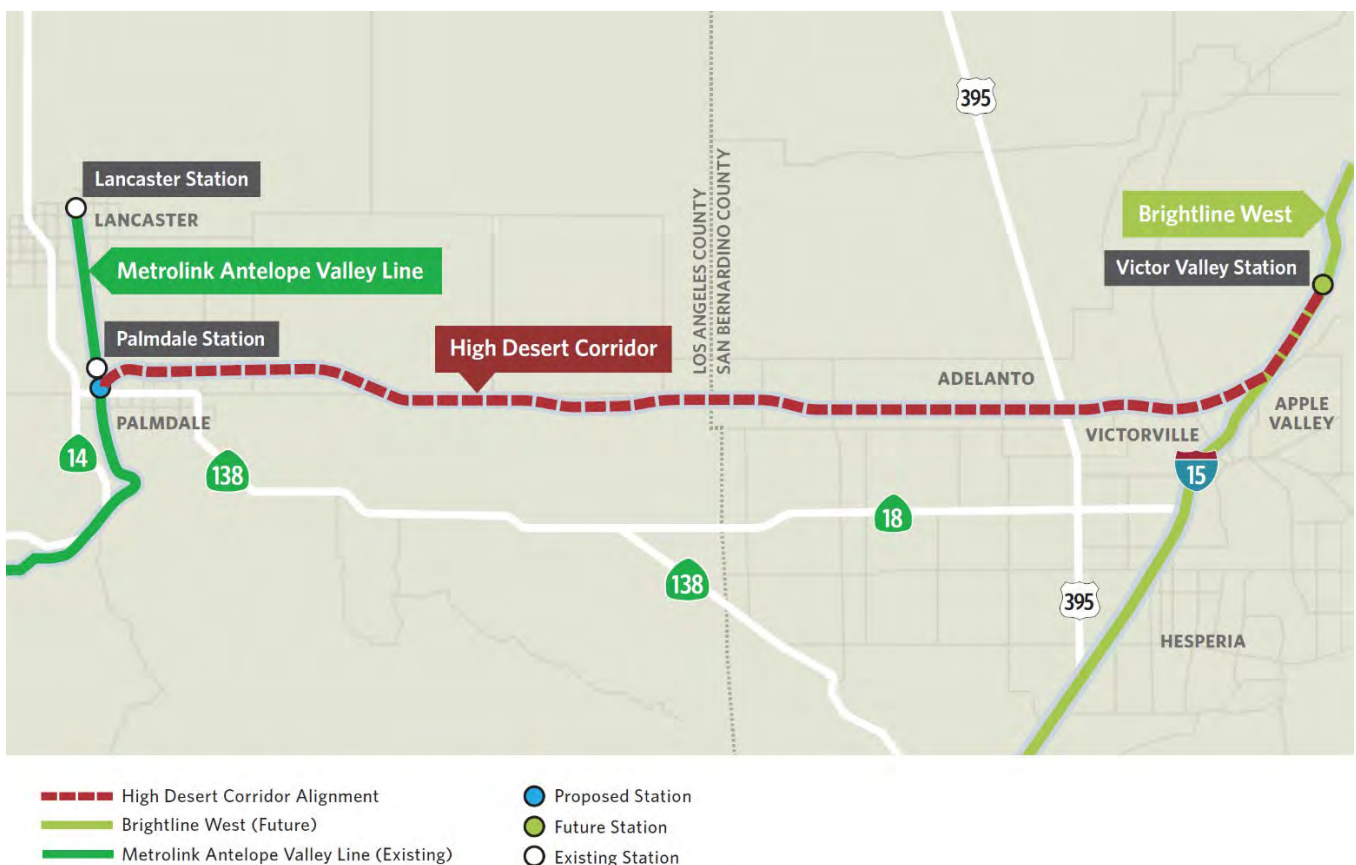
- The High Desert Intercity High Speed Rail Project proposes a 54-mile corridor (Palmdale to Victor Valley) that can be traveled in under 30 minutes providing a future connection to the California High Speed Rail Project and the Brightline West Project.
- One HSR station in Palmdale and one HSR station in Victor Valley: Proposed integration with California High Speed Rail Palmdale Station and Brightline West Victor Valley Station.
- Equitable transportation mobility options. The HDC HSR represents a significant investment in historically underserved and underinvested communities in the high desert communities of Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties.
- The HDC JPA HSR Project is consistent with the CA State Rail Plan's objectives to improve connectivity of the California statewide rail network
- The HDC HSR Project will improve travel safety and reliability from rural communities to major urban centers in Las Vegas, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino Counties.
- The HDC HSR Project, a zero-emission high speed rail technology, will reduce vehicle miles traveled, contributing to improved air quality and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- The HDC HSR Project is estimated to generate more than \$12 billion in economic activity during development and construction.
- New business development will help create jobs closer to and within the growing communities in Southern California. Access to affordable housing options.

HDC JPA is seeking NEPA environmental approvals for the Intercity High Speed Rail Project with a federal Record of Decision (ROD) and Notice of Determination (NOD). More than \$2 billion of Los Angeles County Measure M funds are dedicated to the project.

Project Milestones

- September 2025: CHSRA assumes responsibility as NEPA lead agency for the HDC Intercity Rail Project
- December 2024: HDC JPA submits Federal State Partnership Grant request for the Southwest Region Integration Project
- December 2024: HDC JPA submits FRA Corridor ID Stage 2 Scope, Budget, Timeline paving the way to complete the High Speed Rail Service Development Plan.
- August 2024: HDC HSR Project signs two Labor Agreements with the CA Trades Councils for construction and US Rail Labor Coalition for Operation and Maintenance.
- May 2024: HDC JPA Board approves, with Metro Board concurrence, the FY2024-25 budget allocating \$6,174,000 to proceed with HDC JPA HSR Project development activities including seeking NEPA environmental approvals.

- December 2023: \$8 million in CA Grant Funds allocated. Master Agreement completed, July 2024.
- December 2023: HDC HSR Project accepted into Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Corridor Identification and Development Program (CID) Stage 1, with a \$500,000 grant award. Grant obligated, August 2024.
- April 2021: HDC JPA submits Reevaluation petition to Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and Surface Transportation Board (STB) to receive NEPA clearance and receive the Rail Project Record of Decision (ROD/NOD).
- 2020: Caltrans declares No Build for the highway portion.
- 2018: High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority (HDC JPA) supports study of an alternative to the HDC.
- 2016: High Desert Corridor Multi-purpose corridor receives California CEQA clearance which included a highway and high-speed rail line in the Locally Approved Alternative (LPA). EIR/EIS completed in 2016 after an 8-year Public Process.



HDC JPA October 9 2025 Board Agenda Item 11 Executive Director Update - Attachment A

Attachment A

Financial and Business Advisory Support Quarterly Update July-September 2025

- Consultant team under contract as of June 2024
- Important part of building HDC JPA organizational capacity
- Team led by InfraStrategies, includes 9% DBE participation
- Broad range of activities, including:
 - **Facilitation Support/Administration** – coordination with HDC JPA leadership, within team, with other consultant teams; record-keeping
 - **Financial Plan Development** – identification and tracking of current and potential funding/financing sources and uses of funds
 - **Grants Management** – identifying and pursuing grant opportunities, tracking and ensuring compliance with grant and other funding requirements
 - **Organizational Management/Governance Structure Development** – assist HDC JPA in assessing organizational needs, developing strategy to ensure ability to implement program and meet requirements and meet evolving needs
 - **Project Development Support** – ongoing engagement with key stakeholders, identification of issues and strategies relating to advancement of project
 - **Procurement Support** – assist HDC JPA in developing, advancing the retention necessary support services
 - **DBE Monitoring and Compliance** – establish process and reporting mechanisms for ensuring DBE goal compliance

Major activities/accomplishments for the quarter

- Provided ongoing support to HDC JPA leadership
- Supported HDC JPA leadership for participation in American Public Transportation Association Rail Conference
- Maintained and updated budget and financial reporting tool
- Continued development of financial plan and associated materials
- Identified potential future funding/financing sources, based on alignment with project needs, eligibilities
- Identified, tracked and supported HDC JPA leadership on state legislative priorities
- Developed background information and elements for HDC JPA strategy regarding State Legislature consideration of the extension of the Cap-and-Invest program

- Developed preliminary federal and state grant strategy, including assessment of federal policy changes on pending and future funding opportunities
- Supported HDC JPA leadership in engagement with California State Transportation Agency and Caltrans, including engagement in federal reauthorization working group
- Supported HDC JPA leadership in engagement with US High Speed Rail Association
- Supported HDC JPA leadership in engagement with California Transit Association
- Supported HDC JPA leadership in engagement with potential private sector partners
- Developed project summary materials for use with stakeholders
- Developed initial strategy for advancing HDC JPA organizational capacity and structure based on peer agencies and other resources
- Supported HDC JPA leadership in prioritizing ROW activities, with a focus on identifying potentially sensitive acquisitions
- Supported HDC JPA leadership regarding advancement into National Environmental Policy Act process
- Supported HDC JPA leadership in planning for and engaging with Federal Railroad Administration, including for advancement within the Corridor Identification and Development program.
- Supported HDC JPA leadership in preparation for California Assembly Los Angeles Pop-Up meeting
- Supported HDC JPA in coordination with LA Metro and LA County Public Works
- Developed materials for reporting DBE participation for inclusion in future invoices and to be available upon request
- Initiated coordination with Service Development Plan team
- Conducted engagement with potential private sector partners

Key upcoming activities

- Continued activities in above-mentioned areas
- Advancement of financial plan
- Potential preparation of grant application(s) for new federal funding opportunities
- Identification of policies for Board consideration
- Support of HDC JPA in advancing through federal Corridor Identification and Development Program
- Support of HDC JPA in development of the Service Development Plan



Gavin Newsom
GOVERNOR
Toks Omishakin
SECRETARY
Ian Choudri
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



September 23, 2025

Arthur V. Sohikian
Executive Director
High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority
611 Wilshire Blvd, 9th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Mr. Sohikian,

Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated July 22, 2024, between the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the State of California, acting through the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) and the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority), this letter confirms the Authority's assumption of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) lead agency responsibilities for the High Desert Corridor (HDC) Intercity Rail Project.

In accordance with Section 327 of Title 23, U.S.C., and Section D.4 of the NEPA Assignment Determination Process, as defined in Section 3.3.1.B of the FRA/State MOU, the Authority officially assumed Mutual Agreement effective September 5, 2025, and the Authority assumed NEPA responsibilities for the HDC Intercity Rail Project.

The Authority will carry out all required duties under NEPA and other applicable federal environmental laws for this Project, consistent with the FRA/State MOU.

We look forward to continued collaboration with the High Desert Corridor JPA as this important project advances. Should you have any questions please contact Mr. Brett Rushing, at (916) 908-1230 or brett.rushing@hsr.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "BR", followed by a long horizontal line.

Brett Rushing
NEPA Assignment Manager
California High-Speed Rail Authority