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## Revised Routes For Portion Of California High-Speed Rail Project Would Bypass Santa Clarita

Posted by: Heather Harbin in Community News, Santa Clarita Latest News March 16, 2016 - 1:24 pm 2 Comments 1,137 Views

A set of three revised routes — none of which pass through the city of Santa Clarita for the Palmdale to Burbank section of the California High-Speed Rail Project was released on Tuesday.

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The three proposed routes, dubbed Refined SR-14, Refined E1 and Refined E2, were developed "as a result of continued engineering and environmental technical evaluation," according to a release.

Refined SR-14 would run the closest to Santa Clarita, running along Highway 14, and would affect the communities of Agua Dulce, Acton, Sylmar, San Fernando and Pacoima, among others, arriving at the planned station at the Burbank Airport.

Refined E1 and Refined E2 would mainly tunnel through the San Gabriel Mountains, east of Santa Clarita.

According to a news release, the routes were revised in an effort to:

- Reduce and largely avoid environmental justice impacts in the highly-populated communities of Santa Clarita, Sylmar, San Fernando and Pacoima.
- Reduce impacts in the Santa Clarita area.
- Improve future high-speed rail operations on all the alignments under study by making them less circuitous, thus allowing for more efficient, quicker service.
- Improve the constructability of all the alignments under study by decreasing the amount of technically challenging infrastructure.

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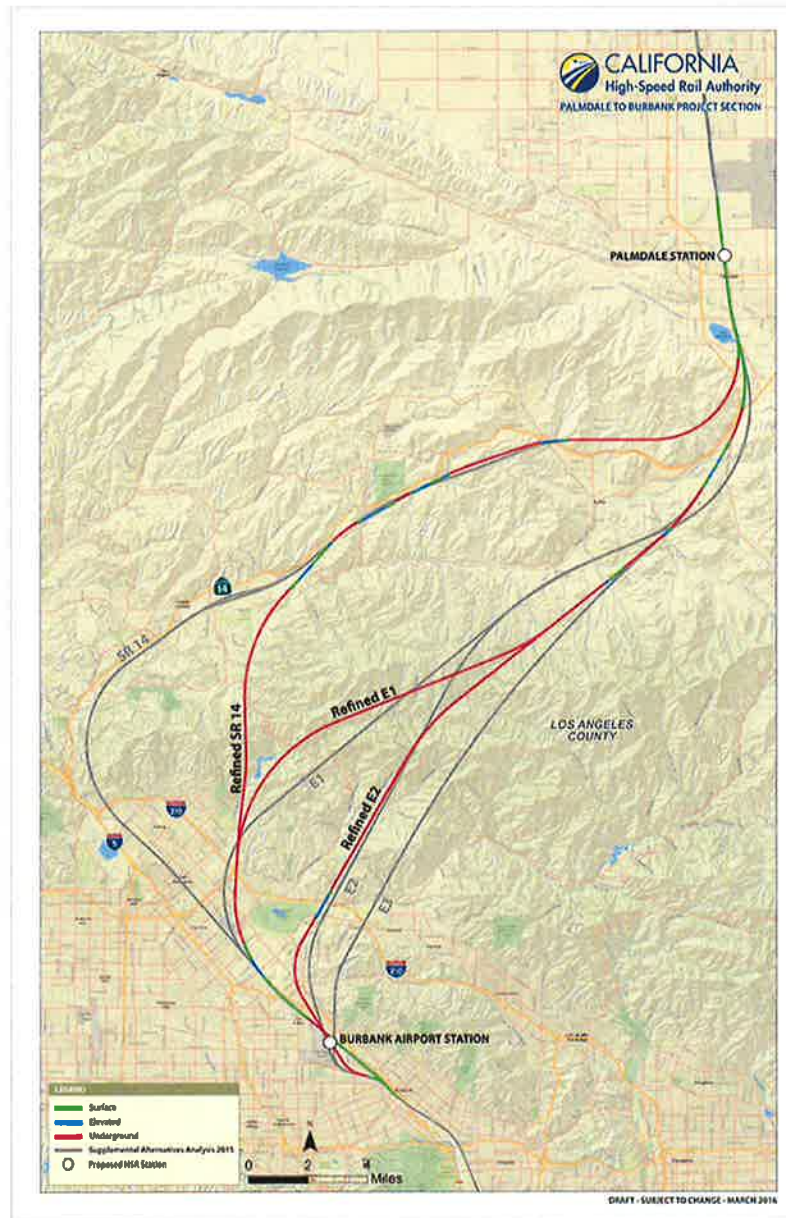
These three revised routes will be detailed in a Supplemental Alternatives Analysis, or SAA, Report before being presented to the California High-Speed Rail Authority Board of Directors at the meeting on April 12.

The meeting is scheduled to be held at the Anaheim Convention Center, located at 800 West Katella Avenue in Anaheim.

The SAA will include details about the three alignment alternatives, and the environmental, technical and feasibility factors that went into these changes.

The report will also review how the route affects, or avoids impacting, the Angeles National Forest, designated wilderness areas and the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

"The Palmdale to Burbank Project Section is currently in the environmental and engineering study phase and is working toward the release of a draft environmental document in 2017," according to news release.



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