



STAFF REPORT
Board Meeting of September 23, 2020

AGENDA ITEM: 4-F

PREPARED BY: Dylan Stone, Principal Regional Planner

SUBJECT:

Central Valley Wye Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement WYE Madera County Task Force Response

Enclosure: No

Action: Information and Discussion Only

SUMMARY:

A letter was submitted on behalf of the WYE Madera County Task Force (Task Force) regarding the Central Valley Wye Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (SEIR/EIS) before it was considered for certification by the California High Speed Rail Authority Board on September 10, 2020.

The Task Force is a collaborative of agencies in Madera County with common interests pertaining to the HSR. The Task Force is comprised of the following legal entities:

- County of Madera
- City of Chowchilla
- City of Madera
- Madera County Transportation Commission
- Madera Unified School District
- Workforce Development Board of Madera County
- Madera County Economic Development Commission

The Task Force found the Final SEIR/EIS to be legally inadequate for the reasons expressed in two separate comment letters submitted by the Task Force for the CEQA and NEPA public review periods earlier in the year. The WYE Task Force cited the need to ensure impacts of the Central Valley Wye are fully disclosed and that mitigation measures to avoid or reduce significant impacts to the extent feasible are considered in compliance with CEQA and NEPA, and that CHSRA must revise the SEIR/EIS to more thoroughly consider and address the issues raised in comments on the Draft SEIR/EIS and the additional comments in this present letter.

The Task Force objected to the Central Valley Wye proposed project/preferred alternative as well as each of the alternatives as described and evaluated in the August 2020 Final SEIR/EIS,

and the Task Force urged the Board of Directors to decline certification of the Final SEIR/EIS and decline to approve any of the subsequent actions recommended in the September 10, 2020 Staff Briefing.

The CHSRA Board unanimously voted to certify the Final EIR/EIS at the September 10, 2020 Board Meeting. After certification of an environmental document, a 30-day period for legal challenges commences.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact to the approved 2020-21 Overall Work Program and Budget.