

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: October 24, 2012

Reference No.: 2.2b.(2) - **REVISED**
Action Item

From: NORMA ORTEGA
Chief Financial Officer

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Environmental Analysis

Subject: **DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, BNSF RAILWAY/UPRR
MOJAVE SUBDIVISION TEHACHAPI RAIL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN
KERN COUNTY – CONSTRUCT ADDITIONAL TRACK WITHIN THE
TEHACHAPI PASS AREA**

CTC ACTION UPDATE: Staff is directed to send a letter on behalf of the Commission to the Department stating that there are no comments to the alternatives or the environmental impacts set forth in the Draft EIR; upon completion of the environmental process, any changes to the scope, cost, schedule or benefits to the project programmed in the Trade Corridor Improvement Fund (TCIF) will require a baseline amendment; the project sponsor is responsible for securing funding for any cost increase; and consistent with TCIF programming requirements, project sponsors must commit to any required mitigation measures to address air quality impacts.

RECOMMENDATION:

The California Department of Transportation (Department) recommends that the California Transportation Commission (Commission) review and comment at the October 2012 Commission meeting on the following Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR):

- 06-Ker-UPRR Mojave Subdivision, MP 327.85/353.08, PPNO TC06, Tehachapi Rail Improvement Project. Construct additional track along five rail segments within the Tehachapi Pass area.

PROGRAMMING:

This project in Kern County will convert five track segments from single-track to double-track within project area, construct three new bridges, and extend existing culverts. The project is programmed in the Trade Corridor Improvement Fund. The total estimated cost for capital and support is \$69,900,000. Construction is estimated to begin in Fiscal Year 2012-13. The scope, as described for the preferred alternative, is consistent with the project scope programmed in the Trade Corridor Improvement Fund.

ALTERNATIVES BEING CONSIDERED:

Alternatives considered for the proposed project include:

- No Build Alternative.
- Alternative 1: Build Alternative. Would double-track five single track segments within the 25 mile project area. In addition, three new bridges will be built and existing culverts will be extended.
- Alternative 2: Reduced-Segment Alternative. The 1.55 mile long Rowen to Woodford section would not be double tracked. The additional bridge at mile post 346.83 would not be built.

POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:

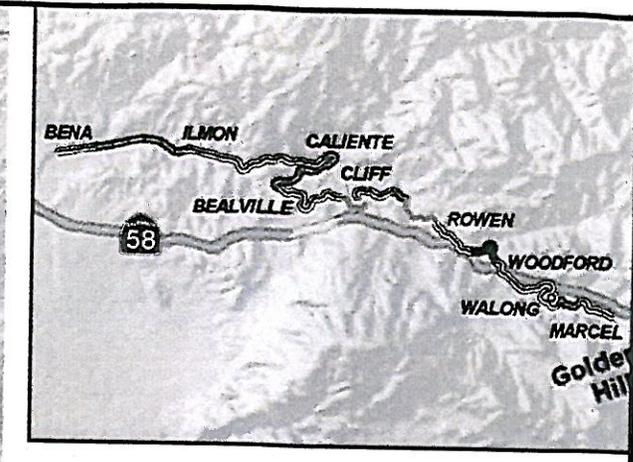
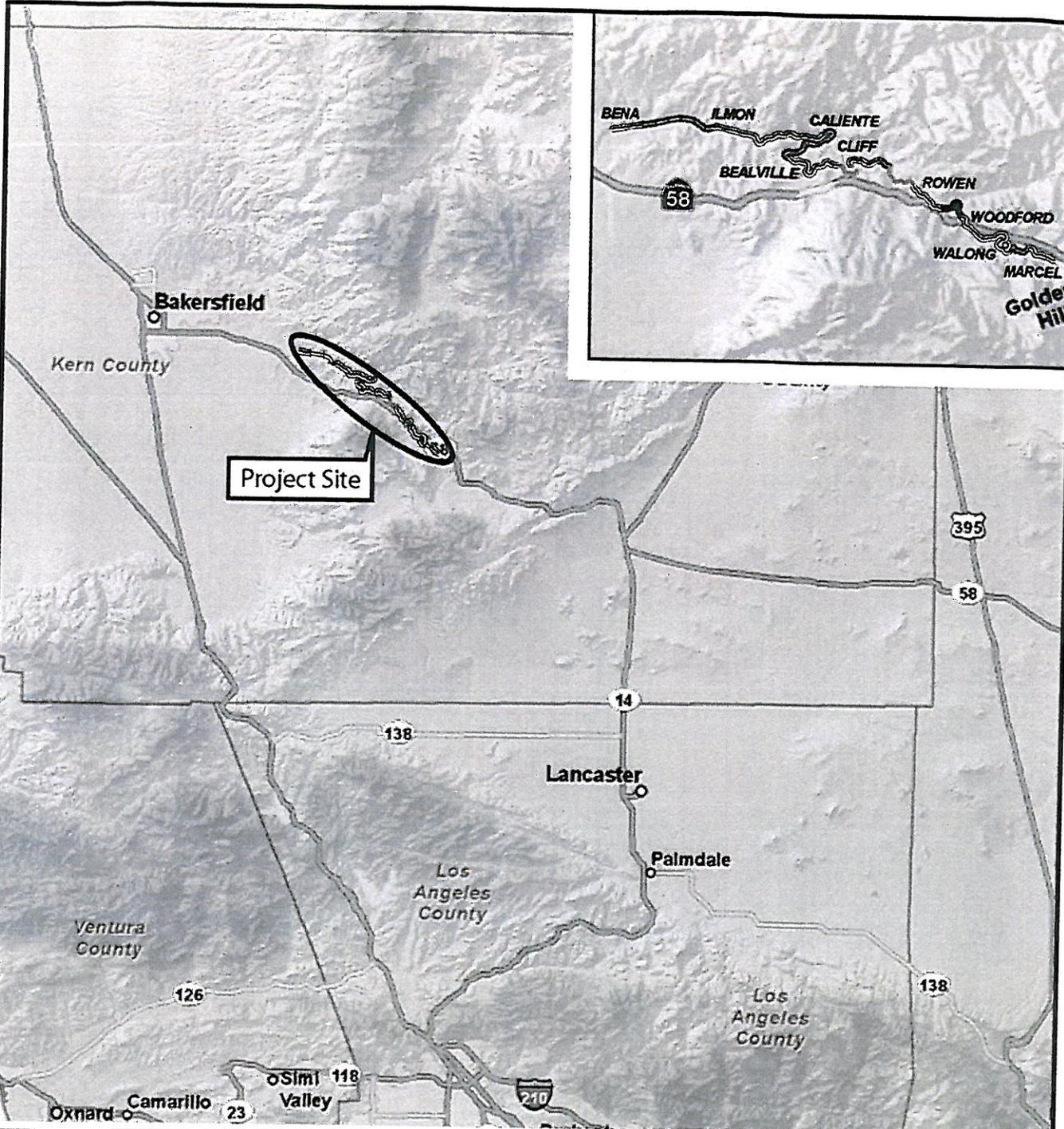
The decision to prepare an Environmental Impact Report was made due to comments made by the public during the review period for the original Mitigated Negative Declaration initially prepared for the project. These comments made a fair argument for potentially significant environmental impacts. Potential impacts resulting from the project include:

- Air.
- Noise.
- Biological impacts.

PROPOSED MEASURES TO MINIMIZE HARM:

- Construction activities will comply with all applicable San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District rules and regulations.
- Traffic speeds on all unpaved roads will be limited to 15 miles per hour.
- Site will be watered a minimum of two times daily during construction activities to control fugitive dust.
- Construction Activities will be limited to the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. on weekends.
- Before ground disturbing activities, BNSF Railway would develop and implement a Native Vegetation Restoration and Monitoring Plan.
- During nesting season a preconstruction migratory nesting bird and other raptors survey report will be conducted.
- The Railroads will stake, flag, fence, and demarcate all environmentally sensitive areas to be protected including wetlands, riparian habitat, oak woodlands, aquatic habitat, and raptor/nesting bird location.

Attachment



Legend

-  Project Site
-  Single Track
-  Double Track
-  Single Track Not in Project



**BNSF/UPRR Mojave Subdivision Tehachapi
Rail Improvement Project**

Regional Project Vicinity Map

Sources: USGS Map