



# Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council

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November 9, 2022

California High-Speed Rail Authority  
Southern California Regional Office  
355 S. Grand Avenue, Suite 2050  
Los Angeles, CA 90071

## **Re: Opposition in Response to the draft EIR/EIS, High Speed Rail 6 Build Alternative Routes, Palmdale to Burbank**

The Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council stands in opposition to all Six Build alternative routes that will tunnel through the Angeles National Forest as outlined in the CAHSR Draft Environmental Impact Report. The comment period ends on December 1, 2022 at 5pm.

Our Angeles National Forest and the Tujunga Wash Area are extremely ecologically sensitive areas, acknowledged by the State in its purchase of a segment of the Big Tujunga Canyon for preservation of its threatened species. We not only fear the water issue, but also the impact on all wildlife, fauna and flora, that may be negatively affected by drilling tunnels through it, especially their displacement and even death due to vibration and sound disruptions inherent with the drilling process - many small animal infants succumb at less than 100 dB, while pile driving generates high-intensity impulsive noise at 131–135 dB. Even the low frequency ongoing sounds of engines prevent procreation in wild animals. What will be done to offset any harm to wildlife due to environmental disruption?

Along all six alternate routes, the rail line would exit the San Fernando Valley through a cluster of five minor earthquake faults into the San Gabriel Mountains, and upon entering the Antelope Valley it will cross the State's major fault line, the San Andreas, which is capable of a quake of magnitude 8.1 at this latitude.

Taking this into consideration we have two questions: 1. When the earthquake happens and there is a train inside the tunnel, how will the passengers be rescued? And what about handicapped passengers? As the earth moves every year at the San Andreas Fault, what is the plan to keep the trains from derailling or keeping the track from getting out of alignment?

Deep bore tunneling through the Angeles National Forest will have a devastating impact on our wildlife, groundwater aquifers and surface springs. Water, the most precious of our resources, will be rerouted during the deep tunnel boring along all Six alternate routes. The CAHSR draft EIR outlines the water sources along the proposed tunneling routes that run along the direct path of tunneling. These routes are the Refined SR14 and SR14A; both having 13 Streams and Tributaries. E1, E1A, E2 and E2A each have 37 Streams and Tributaries. Also outlined in the DEIR is the *Rapidan Service Authority's Surface water features in surface hydrology and water quality*: Refined SR14 Build Alternative—47 surface water features, SR14A Build, Alternative—60 surface water features, E1 Build Alternative—38 surface water features, E1A Build, Alternative—23 surface water features, E2 Build Alternative—29 surface water features, E2A Build Alternative—25 surface water features. What are the plans to offset the ecological damage, caused by the rerouting, of the natural flow of the water?

California is currently experiencing a “megadrought”. We must do everything to eliminate any risk that would impact our most vital resource, water.

Sincerely,

*Lydia Grant*

Lydia Grant  
Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council

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