# Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement and 4(f) Evaluation for the proposed





Prepared by:

USDOT Federal Railroad Administration 1200 New Jersey Ave SE Washington, DC 20590

# DESERTXPRESS HIGH-SPEED PASSENGER TRAIN SUPPLEMENTAL DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND 4(f) EVALUATION

# Prepared by USDOT Federal Railroad Administration

With Cooperating Agencies

Bureau of Land Management Surface Transportation Board Federal Highway Administration National Park Service

Pursuant to:

National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. § 4332 et seq), and implementing regulations (40 C.F.R. Parts 1500-1508), 64 FR § 28545, 23 CFR §771, 65 FR § 33960, 49 C.F.R. § 1105; 49 U.S.C. § 303 (formerly Department of Transportation Act of 1966, Section 4(f)); National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. § 470); Clean Air Act as amended (42 USC §§ 7401 et seq. and 40 CFR Parts 51 and 93); the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 USC § 1531-1544); the Clean Water Act (33 USC § 1251-1387); and the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended (42 USC § 4601)

Joseph C. Szabo Administrator

Federal Railroad Administration U.S. Department of Transportation

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Contact the following individual for additional information concerning this document:

Ms. Wendy Messenger USDOT Federal Railroad Administration 1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E. Washington, DC 20590 (202) 493-6396

**Abstract:** In March 2009, the Federal Railroad Administration published a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the DesertXpress High-Speed Passenger Train project. DesertXpress Enterprises Inc. proposes the construction and operation of a fully grade-separated, dedicated double track passenger-only railroad along an approximately 200-mile corridor, from Victorville, California to Las Vegas, Nevada. Following publication of the Draft EIS, DesertXpress Enterprises Inc. proposed several project modifications and additions to address substantive comments received during public and agency review of the Draft EIS and to reduce or avoid significant environmental effects. This Supplemental Draft EIS evaluates the environmental effects of the proposed project modifications and additions.

The proposed project modifications and additions include a new Victorville passenger station site option, a Barstow area rail alignment routing following I-15 from Lenwood through Yermo, a new rail alignment through the Clark Mountains near the Mojave National Preserve, new sites for maintenance and operation facilities in unincorporated Clark County, relocation of portions of the rail alignment in metropolitan Las Vegas from the immediate I-15 corridor to the Industrial Road/Dean Martin Drive

corridor, and other minor shifts in the rail alignment to avoid or reduce effects or improve operating characteristics of the rail service.

The proposed project modifications and additions do not in any way change the underlying purpose of, or need for the project. The need for a high-speed rail service system stems from several factors, including high and increasing travel demand with limited increases in capacity on Interstate-15 (I-15), constraints to the expansion of air travel, and frequent automobile accidents on the I-15 corridor. The DesertXpress high-speed passenger train would provide reliable and safe passenger rail transportation using proven high-speed rail technology that would be a convenient alternative to automobile travel on I-15 or air travel to and from Las Vegas, and that would add transportation capacity along the I-15 corridor.

Potential environmental impacts of the project modifications and additions include land use and community effects, conversion of grazing land, impacts on sensitive biological resources and wetlands, visual impacts in scenic areas of the Mojave Desert, impacts on historic properties and archaeological sites, impacts on parks and recreation resources, impacts to hydrological resources, air quality effects, noise, and effects on utility and public service providers. Mitigation measures and strategies are described to avoid or minimize potential impacts.

This Supplemental Draft EIS is being made available to the public in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act for a public review and comment period ending October 18, 2010. Public hearings will be held as shown below.

Las Vegas Area
October 13, 2010
5:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m
Hampton Inn Tropicana
SW Event Center B
4975 Dean Martin Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89118

Victorville/Barstow Area
October 14, 2010
5:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.
Lenwood Hampton Inn
Jackrabbit Room 1
2710 Lenwood Road
Barstow, CA 92311

Locations, dates, and times of hearings will also be posted on the Federal Railroad Administration Web Site (www.fra.dot.gov), and notice will be mailed to interested parties and published in newspapers of general circulation.

**Comments on this Supplemental Draft EIS are due by October 18, 2010**, and should be sent to the Federal Railroad Administration by mail addressed to:

Ms. Wendy Messenger Federal Railroad Administration 1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E. MS-20 Washington, DC 20590 Attn: DesertXpress SDEIS

#### Comments on the Supplemental Draft DesertXpress High-Speed Train EIS must be received by FRA by October 18, 2010.

Visit the Federal Railroad Administration Web Site [www.fra.dot.gov] to view and download the Supplemental Draft and Draft EIS.

Printed copies of the Supplemental Draft and Draft EIS have been placed in the following locations:

Victorville City Library

15011 Circle Drive

304 East Buena Vista

Victorville, CA 92395

Barstow Library

4304 East Buena Vista

Barstow, CA 92311

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#### **ES Executive Summary**

#### **ES-1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

In March 2009, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) published a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the DesertXpress high-speed passenger rail project (project). The project entails the construction and operation of a privately financed interstate high-speed passenger train between Victorville, California and Las Vegas, Nevada. DesertXpress Enterprises, LLC (Applicant) proposes to a fully grade-separated, dedicated double track passenger-only railroad along an approximately 200-mile corridor that would generally follow the I-15 freeway. The project would also include construction of a passenger station in Victorville, California, a passenger station in Las Vegas, Nevada, a maintenance and operation facility in Victorville, an overnight maintenance and storage facility in the Las Vegas area and associated ancillary facilities needed to maintain and operate the proposed rail line.

Following publication of the Draft EIS, the project Applicant proposed several project modifications and additions to address substantive comments received during public and agency review of the Draft EIS and to reduce or avoid significant environmental effects. This Supplemental Draft EIS evaluates the environmental effects of these proposed modifications and additions.

#### **ES-2 PURPOSE AND NEED**

The purpose of the project is to provide reliable and safe passenger rail transportation using proven high-speed rail technology between Southern California (Victorville) to Las Vegas that is a convenient alternative to automobile travel on the Interstate-15 freeway (I-15), or air travel to and from Las Vegas, and that adds transportation capacity in the I-15 corridor.

The need for a high-speed rail service stems from several factors: high and increasing travel demand amidst lagging capacity on the I-15 corridor, frequent accidents in the I-15 corridor, and constraints to expansion of air travel. **Chapter 1.0, Purpose and Need**, of this Supplemental Draft EIS summarizes the purpose and need of the project. **Chapter 1.0, Purpose and Need**, of the Draft EIS provides a detailed discussion of the purpose and need of the project.

#### **ES-3 ALTERNATIVES**

The Draft EIS considered action alternatives categorized into two primary sets: Alternative A and Alternative B. These are based on potential alignment routings for the 200 mile corridor.

**Alternative A** consists primarily of rail alignment segments that would be within the **median** of the I-15 freeway.

**Alternative B** consists primarily of rail alignment segments that would be within the **fenced area** of the I-15 freeway, adjacent to automobile travel lanes.

In addition, the Draft EIS examined a third alignment option within the Las Vegas metropolitan area, *Option C*.

For analytical purposes, each of the alignments along the 200 mile corridor was divided into seven segments. **Figure ES-1** shows the location of the action alternatives. FRA organized the analysis in this manner to allow FRA and the cooperating agencies to "mix and match" various segments in composing a preferred alternative.

The action alternatives evaluated in the Draft EIS also included one of each of the following permanent physical facilities in addition to the rail alignment:

- Victorville passenger station: Two site options (Site 1 and Site 2) immediately west of the I-15 freeway were considered.
- Victorville Operations, Maintenance, and Storage Facility (OMSF): Two site options (OMSF 1 and OMSF 2) immediately west of the I-15 freeway were considered.
- Maintenance of Way (MOW) facility: One site option adjacent to the I-15 freeway near the community of Baker was considered.
- Las Vegas area Maintenance and Storage Facility (MSF): Three site options, Sloan Road MSF, Wigwam Avenue MSF, and Robindale Avenue MSF are under consideration.
- Las Vegas area passenger station: Four site options in Clark County/City of Las Vegas: Southern Station, Central Station A, Central Station B, and Downtown Station were considered.

In addition, two train technologies, each fully applicable to any set of the action alternatives, were considered in the Draft EIS: a diesel-electric multiple unit train (DEMU) or an electric multiple unit train (EMU). The two technology options would have similar right-of-way width requirements and largely the same construction footprint. However, the EMU option, as considered in the Draft EIS, also included overhead catenary wires and supports (located along the length of the rail alignment), three electrical substations (one at an OMSF, one at the MOW, and one at an MSF),

approximately seventeen transformers (each located on 4,000 to 5,000 square foot parcels at 10 mile intervals along the rail corridor), and three electrical utility connections from the existing electrical grid, one in Victorville, one in Baker, and one near Sloan.

Subsequent to the publication of the Draft EIS, the Applicant proposed several project modifications and additions to address substantive comments received during public and agency review of the Draft EIS and to reduce or avoid significant environmental effects. This Supplemental Draft EIS considers these proposed modifications and additions, which are summarized below and described in more detail in **Chapter 2.0**, **Alternatives**, of this Supplemental Draft EIS.

- Victorville Station Site 3 (VV3): An additional station site option is proposed immediately west of the I-15 freeway near the Dale Evans Parkway.
- Victorville OMSF2: The footprint of OMSF 2 has been reduced from 260 acres as analyzed in the Draft EIS to approximately 68 acres. The location of the facility is not changed.
- **Segment 2C:** Two alignments, side running and median, have been proposed within the I-15 freeway corridor through Lenwood and Barstow, for Segment 2
- Segment 4C: An additional alignment for Segment 4 has been proposed. Segment 4C is a similar alignment to Segment 4B as presented in the Draft EIS, but would travel north of planned solar energy projects and the Ivanpah Dry Lake bed before connecting back to the I-15 freeway corridor in the vicinity of Primm, Nevada.
- **Relocated Sloan MSF (RSMSF):** A modified location for the Sloan MSF has been proposed approximately 9 miles south of Sloan Road and approximately 2 miles south of the Sloan Road MSF analyzed in the Draft EIS.
- Frias Substation Site: An additional electrical substation site has been proposed at the intersection of West Frias Avenue and South Dean Martin Drive in unincorporated Clark County, to provide electrical power in the event the EMU technology is selected.
- Alignment Adjustment Areas (AAAs): Eight minor modifications to the alignment locations analyzed in the Draft EIS have been proposed.
- Wigwam Avenue MSF Modification: A modification has been proposed to the Wigwam MSF to reorient the tail tracks from the south, rather than the north as evaluated in the Draft EIS. The size of the site is otherwise unchanged.
- **Profile Modification:** A modification has been proposed to the profile and width of a 1.3 mile portion of Segment 3B. The alignment is otherwise unchanged.

**Figures S-ES-1** through **S-ES-5** show the locations of the proposed project modifications and additions.

#### **ES-4 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS**

**Tables S-ES -1** through **S-ES 6** summarize by affected project segment the impacts of the project modifications and additions, including all permanent facilities, relative to their counterpart project components as well as the No Action Alternative.

Project modifications and additions evaluated in this Supplemental Draft EIS affect portions of and/or features along Segments 1 through 6. None of the project modifications affect any of the Las Vegas area stations (Southern, Central A, Central B, Downtown), Segment 7, nor the two technology options (DEMU and EMU), which were fully evaluated in the Draft EIS. Therefore, summary Tables S-ES-1 through S-ES-6 only presents impacts Segments 1 through 6. The information contained in the following tables is derived from the information, analysis and conclusions contained in this Supplemental Draft EIS, the Draft EIS, and supporting appendices.

New information from the analysis contained in this Supplemental Draft EIS is highlighted in the table.

Table S-ES-1 Comparison of Segment 1 Alternatives

Environmental Topic	Segment 1 Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Victorville Station Site 1	Victorville OMSF Site 1	Victorville Station Site 2	Victorville Station Site 3 (3A/3B)	Reduced Size Victorville OMSF Site 2	No Action Alternative
Land Use & Community Impa	icts						
Compatibility with Adjacent Land Uses	High within I-15 corridor, Low outside	Medium	Medium	High	High	High	High
Compatibility with Land Use Plans	High within I-15 corridor, Low outside	Medium-High	Medium-High	High, except for Low (residential)	High, except for Low (residential)	High, except for Low (residential)	High
Number of housing units displaced	0	0	0	0	0	0	Unknown
Extent of community disruption/severance	None expected	None expected	None expected	None expected	None expected	None expected	None expected
Number of environmental justice (EJ) communities crossed by or within 1 mile of facilities	Would cross 2 EJ census blocks (minority/poverty)	Within EJ census block (minority)	Within EJ census block (minority)	Within 1 mile of 2 EJ census blocks	Within 1 mile of 2 EJ census blocks	Within 1 mile of 1 EJ census block	Expected to be similar to Segment 1 rail alignment
Growth							
Estimated permanent employment	NA	361 to 463 pe	rmanent jobs in the	e Victorville Station	and OMSF regard	less of location	None expected
Removal of obstacles to growth	None expected	None expected	None expected	None expected	None	None expected	None expected
Extent of effects to TOD potential	Beneficial effect	Beneficial effect	Beneficial effect	Beneficial effect	Beneficial effect	Beneficial effect	None expected
Extent of effects to economic vitality	Construction period employment	Beneficial cons	truction and opera	tional employment sites	effects similar for a	all station/OMSF	None expected
Farmlands & Agriculture							
Acres of Directly Impacted Farmland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 expected

Environmental Topic	Segment 1 Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Victorville Station Site 1	Victorville OMSF Site 1	Victorville Station Site 2	Victorville Station Site 3 (3A/3B)	Reduced Size Victorville OMSF Site 2	No Action Alternative
Farmlands & Agriculture Con	t'd						
Acres of Indirectly Impacted Farmland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 expected
Potential Severance of Grazing Allotment	Yes; would traverse a BLM grazing allotment			otions are on land i o I-15 freeway, min			None expected
Utilities & Emergency Services	S						
Exceed capacity of utility or service systems:							
Electricity and Gas	No demand associated, unless EMU selected	No	No	No	No	No	Not expected
Water Supply	No demand associated	No	No	No	No	No	Not expected
Sewage/Wastewater	No demand associated	No	No	No	No	No	Not expected
Stormwater	Would require connections to existing and/or new facilities	New convey	ances would be re	quired at all station	/maintenance sites	s in Victorville	Not expected
Solid Waste	No generation	No	No	No	No	No	Not expected
Police Services	No	No	No	No	No	No	Not expected
Fire/Emergency Services	New staff, equipment and facility	New staff, equipment and facility	(Assumed No)	New staff, equipment and facility	New staff, equipment and facility	(Assumed No)	Not expected

Environmental Topic	Segment 1 Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Victorville Station Site 1	Victorville OMSF Site 1	Victorville Station Site 2	Victorville Station Site 3 (3A/3B)	Reduced Size Victorville OMSF Site 2	No Action Alternative
Utilities & Emergency Service	s Cont'd						
Potential conflict with existing utility distribution systems	Yes, but conflicts can be mitigated	Yes, but conflicts can be mitigated	Yes, but conflicts can be mitigated	Yes, but conflicts can be mitigated	Yes, but conflicts can be mitigated; VV3A requires approval of LADWP for long term parking in utility corridor	Yes, but conflicts can be mitigated	Assumed yes, and that conflicts can be mitigated
Traffic & Transportation							
Result in substantial traffic increases:							
Freeway Mainlines							LOS would degrade from D to F between Victorville and I- 40
Station Area Intersections	NA	Delays would worsen at 4 intersections (EMU and DEMU)	Same as Station Site 1	Delays would worsen at 2 intersections (EMU) Delays would worsen at 1 intersections (DEMU)	Delays would worsen at 3 intersections (EMU) Delays would worsen at 5 intersections (DEMU)	Same as Station Site 2	None expected
Visual Resources							
Extent of consistency with BLM VRM Objectives	Somewhat consistent within I-15 corridor; not consistent outside I-15 corridor	All s	station and OMSF s	ite options would I	oe somewhat cons	istent	Consistent if impacts remain in existing corridor
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Environmental Topic	Segment 1 Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Victorville Station Site 1	Victorville OMSF Site 1	Victorville Station Site 2	Victorville Station Site 3 (3A/3B)	Reduced Size Victorville OMSF Site 2	No Action Alternative
Visual Resources Cont'd							
Effect to FHWA Visual Quality/Sensitivity With Project	In I-15 corridor, quality would be reduced from moderate to low. Outside corridor, quality would be reduced from mod/high to mod/low	Alls	tation and OMSF	site options would t	oe somewhat consi	stent	Consistent if impacts remain in existing corridor
Cultural & Paleontological							
Number of Eligible or Assumed Eligible Archaeological Resources Directly Affected	16	2	5	1	7	5	Assumed to be same as Segment 1 - about 16
Number of Eligible or Assumed Eligible Archaeological Resources Indirectly Affected	0	0	0	0	0	0	Assumed to be same as Segment 1 - about 0
Number of Historic Architectural Resources Directly/Indirectly Affected	0	0	0	0	0	0	Assumed 0
Hydrology & Water Quality							
Linear feet of impact to water resources	2491	0	12	0	2257 (VV3A) 2075 (VV3B)	825	Assumed similar to Segment 1 - about 2490
Acres within a 100-year floodplain	2.8	13.5	1.9	0	0	0	Assumed similar to Segment 1 - about 2.8
Result in substantial drainage pattern alteration	No	No	No	No	Yes but can be mitigated	Yes but can be mitigated	Not expected

Environmental Topic	Segment 1 Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Victorville Station Site 1	Victorville OMSF Site 1	Victorville Station Site 2	Victorville Station Site 3 (3A/3B)	Reduced Size Victorville OMSF Site 2	No Action Alternative
Hydrology & Water Quality Co	ont'd						
Estimated peak stormwater discharge (cubic feet/second)	NA	227	Mostly unpaved; not quantified	243	275 (VV3A) 235 (VV3B)	Mostly unpaved; not quantified	NA
Geology & Soils							
Expected likelihood of Surface Fault Rupture	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Expected likelihood of ground shaking	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Expected difficulty of excavation	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Expected likelihood of landslides	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Hazardous Materials							
Number of properties of environmental concern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Air Quality & Global Climate C	Change						
Exceed a state or federal standard?	No	No	No	No	No	No	Not expected
Result in CO Hotspot?	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Expected adverse construction period impact?	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Noise & Vibration							
Expected number of impacts under FRA criteria	3 for EMU, 4 DEMU	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	None expected
Expected number of severe impacts under FRA criteria	0 for EMU, 1 for DEMU	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	None expected
Expected number of vibration impacts	0	0	0	0	0	0	None expected

Environmental Topic	Segment 1 Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Victorville Station Site 1	Victorville OMSF Site 1	Victorville Station Site 2	Victorville Station Site 3 (3A/3B)	Reduced Size Victorville OMSF Site 2	No Action Alternative
Energy							
Result in Significant Change in Energy Consumption?		Analysis ex	amined project as	a whole, comparing	g DEMU, EMU, and	d No Action.	
Biological Resources							
Impose Barrier to wildlife movement	Yes, outside I-15 corridor	No	No	No	No	No	No new barriers
Number of stream crossings	24	0	0	2	1	2 (no change from DEIS)	No new crossings
Sensitive plant community acreage affected							
Permanent	0	0	0	0	0	0	Assumed 0
Temporary	0	0	0	0	0	0	Assumed 0
Desert Tortoise habitat acreage affected							
Permanent	159	93	92.4	114.5	205.5 (VV3A) 223.5 (VV3B)	195.2	0
Temporary	832.1	0	0	0	38.5 (VV3A) 40.8 (VV3B)	0	0
Mohave Ground Squirrel habitat acreage affected							
Permanent	198.5	85.1	22.6	105.2	205.5 (VV3A) 223.5 (VV3B)	339.7	0
Temporary	803.3	0	0	0	38.5 (VV3A) 40.8 (VV3B)	0	0
Potential to result in direct mortality/loss/disturbance to:							
Mojave Fringe-toed Lizard	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Nesting raptors/migratory birds	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Banded Gila Monster	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Burrowing Owls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Environmental Topic	Segment 1 Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Victorville Station Site 1	Victorville OMSF Site 1	Victorville Station Site 2	Victorville Station Site 3 (3A/3B)	Reduced Size Victorville OMSF Site 2	No Action Alternative
Biological Resources Cont'd							
Roosting Bats	Yes, at bridge crossings	Yes, rock outcrops	No	No	No	No	No
American Badger	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Desert Bighorn Sheep	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Clark County MSHCP Covered Reptiles	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Acres of Special Management Lands Lost	0	0	0	0	No	0	0
Section 4(f)							
Number of Section 4(f) properties used							
Park and Recreation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cultural Resources	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: CirclePoint, 2010.

Table S-ES-2 Comparison of Segment 2 Alternatives

Environmental Topic	Segment 2A/2B, 2A Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs (including AAAs 1-2)	Segment 2A/2B, 2B Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs (including AAAs 1-2)	Segment 2C (Side Running and Median Options) and Associated TCA	No Action Alternative
Land Use & Community Impacts				
Compatibility with Adjacent Land Uses	High within I-15 corridor, Low near Barstow, Low to medium near Yermo	High within I-15 corridor, High near commercial uses, Low near Barstow, Low near residential uses	High within I-15 corridor, Medium near commercial/industrial uses, Low near Barstow, Low near residential uses	High
Compatibility with Land Use Plans	High within I-15 corridor, Low outside	Medium-High	Medium-High	High
Number of housing units displaced	0	0	0	Unknown
Extent of community disruption/severance	Linear division through Lenwood and Yermo	Linear division through Lenwood	None Expected	None expected
Number of environmental justice(EJ) communities crossed by or within 1 mile of facilities	Within 1 mile of 4 EJ census blocks (minority/poverty)	Within 1 mile of 4 EJ census blocks (minority/poverty)	Would cross 2 EJ census blocks (minority/poverty)	Expected to be similar to Segment 1 rail alignment
Growth				
Estimated permanent employment	NA	NA	NA	None expected
Removal of obstacles to growth	None expected	None expected	None expected	None expected
Extent of effects to TOD potential	None	None	None expected	None expected
Extent of effects to economic vitality	Construction period employment	Construction period employment	Construction period employment	None expected
Farmlands & Agriculture				
Acres of Directly Impacted Farmland	3.37 acres	3.37 acres	0	0 expected
Acres of Indirectly Impacted Farmland	6.75 acres	6.75 acres	0	0 expected
Potential Severance of Grazing Allotment	No	No	No	None expected
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Environmental Topic	Segment 2A/2B, 2A Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs (including AAAs 1-2)	Segment 2A/2B, 2B Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs (including AAAs 1-2)	Segment 2C (Side Running and Median Options) and Associated TCA	No Action Alternative
Utilities & Emergency Services				
Exceed capacity of utility or service systems:				
Electricity and Gas	No demand associated, unless EMU selected	No demand associated, unless EMU selected	No demand associated, unless EMU selected	Not expected
Water Supply	No demand associated	No demand associated	No demand associated	Not expected
Sewage/Wastewater	No demand associated	No demand associated	No demand associated	Not expected
Stormwater	Would require connections to new conveyance facilities	Would require connections to existing and/or new conveyance facilities	Would require connections to existing and/or new conveyance facilities	Not expected
Solid Waste	No generation	No generation	No generation	Not expected
Police Services	SBCPD concern of train derailment emergency	SBCPD concern of train derailment emergency	SBCPD concern of train derailment emergency	Not expected
Fire/Emergency Services	New staff, equipment and facility	New staff, equipment and facility	New staff, equipment and facility	Not expected
Potential conflict with existing utility distribution systems	Yes, but conflicts can be mitigated	Yes, but conflicts can be mitigated	Yes, but conflicts can be mitigated	Assumed yes, and that conflicts can be mitigated
Traffic & Transportation				
Result in substantial traffic increases:				
Freeway Mainlines	Between I-40 and the California-Ne or EMU levels of traffic wou	evada state line, traffic reduction a uld reduce freeway volumes and p		LOS would degrade from D to F between Victorville and I-40
Station Area Intersections	NA	NA	NA	None expected

Environmental Topic	Segment 2A/2B, 2A Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs (including AAAs 1-2)	Segment 2A/2B, 2B Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs (including AAAs 1-2)	Segment 2C (Side Running and Median Options) and Associated TCA	No Action Alternative
Visual Resources				
Extent of consistency with BLM VRM Objectives	Somewhat consistent in undeveloped and developed areas.	Somewhat consistent in undeveloped and developed areas.	Somewhat consistent in undeveloped and developed areas	Consistent if impacts remain in existing corridor
Effect to FHWA Visual Quality/Sensitivity With Project	In undeveloped areas, quality decreased from moderate/high to moderate. Low/moderate quality in developed areas.	In undeveloped areas, quality decreased from moderate/high to moderate. Near I-15, quality decreased from moderate to low.	At Barstow, disrupt visual unity. Near I-15 no substantial changes to existing low.	Consistent if impacts remain in existing corridor
Cultural & Paleontological				
Number of Eligible or Assumed Eligible Archaeological Resources Directly Affected	16	23	14	Assumed to be same as Segment 2C - about 14
Number of Eligible or Assumed Eligible Archaeological Resources Indirectly Affected	3	7	0	Assumed to be same as Segment 2C - 0
Number of Historic Architectural Resources Directly/Indirectly Affected	0	0	0	Assumed 0
Hydrology & Water Quality				
Linear feet of impact to water resources	1157	11,064	2344 (side running) 2342 (median running)	Assumed similar to Segment 2C- about 2340
Acres within a 100-year floodplain	12	22	11 (side running) 10 (median running)	Assumed similar to Segment 2C - about 11
Result in substantial drainage pattern alteration	No	No	No	Not expected
Estimated peak stormwater discharge (cubic feet/second)	NA	NA	No	NA

Environmental Topic	Segment 2A/2B, 2A Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs (including AAAs 1-2)	Segment 2A/2B, 2B Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs (including AAAs 1-2)	Segment 2C (Side Running and Median Options) and Associated TCA	No Action Alternative
Geology & Soils				
Expected likelihood of Surface Fault Rupture	High near Barstow, Low near Yermo.	High near Barstow, Low near Yermo.	High	High
Expected likelihood of ground shaking	High	High	High	High
Expected difficulty of excavation	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Expected likelihood of landslides	Moderate near Barstow, Low near Yermo.	Moderate near Barstow, Low near Yermo.	Low	Moderate
Hazardous Materials				
Number of properties of environmental concern	4	6	5	0
Air Quality & Global Climate Change				
Exceed a state or federal standard?	No	No	No	Not expected
Result in CO Hotspot?	No	No	No	No
Expected adverse construction period impact?	No	No	No	No
Noise & Vibration				
Expected number of impacts under FRA criteria	57 for EMU, 77 for DEMU	60 for EMU, 83 for DEMU	60 for EMU, 139 for DEMU (side running) 80 for EMU, 127 for DEMU (median running)	None expected
Expected number of severe impacts under FRA criteria	31 for EMU, 41 for DEMU	35 for EMU, 46 for DEMU	33 for EMU, 48 for DEMU (side running) 0 for EMU, 22 for DEMU (median running)	None expected
Expected number of vibration impacts	19	23	0	None expected
Energy				
Result in Significant Change in Energy Consumption?	Analysis examir	ned project as a whole, comparin	g DEMU, EMU, and No Action.	

Environmental Topic	Segment 2A/2B, 2A Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs (including AAAs 1-2)	Segment 2A/2B, 2B Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs (including AAAs 1-2)	Segment 2C (Side Running and Median Options) and Associated TCA	No Action Alternative
Biological Resources				
Impose Barrier to wildlife movement	No	No	No	No new barriers
Number of stream crossings	16	12	12	No new crossings
Sensitive plant community acreage affected				
Permanent	0	0	0	Assumed 0
Temporary	4.6 acres of Mesquite Shrubland	0	0	Assumed 0
Desert Tortoise habitat acreage affected				
Permanent	171	151	37.5 (side running) 37.4 (median running)	0
Temporary	700	548	101 (side running) 97.(median running)	0
Mohave Ground Squirrel habitat acreage affected				
Permanent	23	40	36 (side running) 36 (median running)	0
Temporary	863	319	89.1 (side running) 89.1 (median running)	0
Potential to result in direct mortality/loss/disturbance to:				
Mojave Fringe-toed Lizard	Yes, near Mojave River	No	Yes, near Mojave River (side running) No for median running	No
Nesting raptors/migratory birds	Yes	Yes	Yes (both options)	No
Banded Gila Monster	No	No	No (both options)	No
Burrowing Owls	Yes	Yes	Yes (both options)	No
Roosting Bats	Yes, in caves and mines	Yes, in caves and mines	No (both options)	No
American Badger	Yes	Yes	Yes (both options)	Yes

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Environmental Topic	Segment 2A/2B, 2A Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs (including AAAs 1-2)	Segment 2A/2B, 2B Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs (including AAAs 1-2)	Segment 2C (Side Running and Median Options) and Associated TCA	No Action Alternative
Biological Resources Cont'd				
Desert Bighorn Sheep	No	No	No (both options)	No
Clark County MSHCP Covered Reptiles	No	No	No (both options)	No
Acres of Special Management Lands Lost	60.9 acres of Superior-Cronese Desert Tortoise Critical Habitat	60.9 acres of Superior- Cronese Desert Tortoise Critical Habitat	0	0
Section 4(f)				
Number of Section 4(f) properties used				
Park and Recreation	0	0	0	0
Cultural Resources	6	7	2	0

Source: CirclePoint, 2010.

Table S-ES-3 Comparison of Segment 3 Alternatives

Environmental Topic	Segment 3A Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Segment 3B Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs (with Profile Modification and AAA 3-6)	Baker Maintenance of Way Facility	No Action Alternative
Land Use & Community Impacts				
Compatibility with Adjacent Land Uses	High within I-15 corridor, Low outside	High within I-15 corridor, Low outside	High	High
Compatibility with Land Use Plans	High within I-15 corridor, Low outside	Medium-High	Medium-High	High
Number of housing units displaced	0	0	0	Unknown
Extent of community disruption/severance	None expected	None expected	None expected	None expected
Number of environmental justice (EJ) communities crossed by or within 1 mile of facilities	Would cross 3 EJ census blocks (minority and poverty)	Would cross 3 EJ census blocks (minority and poverty)	Outside any EJ census block	Expected to be similar to Segment 3A rail alignment
Growth				
Estimated permanent employment	NA	NA	8 employees	None expected
Removal of obstacles to growth	None expected	None expected	None expected	None expected
Extent of effects to TOD potential	None	None	None	None expected
Extent of effects to economic vitality	Construction period employment	Construction period employment	Beneficial construction and operational employment effects	None expected
Farmlands & Agriculture				
Acres of Directly Impacted Farmland	0	0	0	0 expected
Acres of Indirectly Impacted Farmland	0.3	0	0	0 expected
Potential Severance of Grazing Allotment	No, Adjacent to grazing lands	No, Adjacent to grazing lands	No, Adjacent to grazing lands	None expected
Utilities & Emergency Services				
Exceed capacity of utility or service systems:				
Electricity and Gas	No demand associated, unless EMU selected	No demand associated, unless EMU selected	No	Not expected
Water Supply	No demand associated	No demand associated	No	Not expected

or new ex cilities on nent, and	No demand associated  Would require connections to existing and/or new conveyance facilities  No generation  No  New staff, equipment, and facility  es, but conflicts can be mitigate	No No New staff, equipment, and facility	Not expected  Not expected  Not expected  Not expected  Not expected  Assumed yes, and that conflicts can be mitigated
nnections Vor new excilities on ent, and can be Yes	Would require connections to existing and/or new conveyance facilities  No generation  No  New staff, equipment, and facility	New conveyances would be required  No  No  No  New staff, equipment, and facility  d Yes, but conflicts can	Not expected  Not expected  Not expected  Not expected  Assumed yes, and that conflicts can be
or new excilities on ent, and can be Yes	existing and/or new conveyance facilities  No generation  No  New staff, equipment, and facility	would be required  No  No  No  New staff, equipment, and facility  d Yes, but conflicts can	Not expected  Not expected  Not expected  Assumed yes, and that conflicts can be
ent, and	No New staff, equipment, and facility	No  New staff, equipment, and facility  d Yes, but conflicts can	Not expected  Not expected  Assumed yes, and that conflicts can be
can be Yes	New staff, equipment, and facility	New staff, equipment, and facility  d Yes, but conflicts can	Not expected  Assumed yes, and that conflicts can be
can be Yes	and facility	and facility  d Yes, but conflicts can	Assumed yes, and that conflicts can be
	es, but conflicts can be mitigate		that conflicts can be
			-
ated with either I	rnia-Nevada state line, traffic r DEMU or EMU levels of traffic nes and positively affect LOS	NA	LOS would degrade between I-40 and the Nevada state line
	NA	NA	None expected
nsistent c	Somewhat consistent in I-15 corridor. Not consistent near wilderness areas in the Mojave National Preserve.	High level of contrast with views from Preserve.	Consistent if impacts remain in existing corridor
	high to moderate. Outside	Consistent, as constructed near I-15 corridor.	Consistent if impacts remain in existing corridor
	reduced Ir derate. , quality erate/high	reduced In Preserve, quality reduced from high to moderate. Outside Preserve, quality reduced from moderate/high to moderate.	National Preserve.  reduced In Preserve, quality reduced from derate. high to moderate. Outside constructed near I-15, quality Preserve, quality reduced from corridor.

Environmental Topic	Segment 3A Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Segment 3B Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs (with Profile Modification and AAA 3-6)	Baker Maintenance of Way Facility	No Action Alternative
Cultural & Paleontological Resources				
Number of Eligible or Assumed Eligible Archaeological Resources Directly Affected	19	39 (1 fewer than unaltered Segment 3B)	0	Assumed to be same as Segment 3A - about 19
Number of Eligible or Assumed Eligible Archaeological Resources Indirectly Affected	6	9	0	Assumed to be same as Segment 3A - about 9
Number of Historic Architectural Resources Directly/Indirectly Affected	0	0	0	Assumed 0
Hydrology & Water Quality				
Linear feet of impact to water resources	4059	7608	0	Assumed similar to Segment 3A - about 4059
Acres within a 100-year floodplain	0	2.7	0	Assumed similar to Segment 3A - 0
Result in substantial drainage pattern alteration	No	No	No	Not expected
Estimated peak stormwater discharge (cubic feet/second)	NA	NA	NA	NA
Geology & Soils				
Expected likelihood of Surface Fault Rupture	High from Yermo to Baker, low from the east of Baker.	High from Yermo to Baker, low from the east of Baker.	High	High
Expected likelihood of ground shaking	Low/moderate from Yermo to Baker, moderate from the east of Baker.	Low/moderate from Yermo to Baker, moderate from the east of Baker.	Low/Moderate	High
Expected difficulty of excavation	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Expected likelihood of landslides	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

Environmental Topic	Segment 3A Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Segment 3B Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs (with Profile Modification and AAA 3-6)	Baker Maintenance of Way Facility	No Action Alternative
Hazardous Materials				
Number of properties of environmental concern	2	2	0	0
Air Quality & Global Climate Change				
Exceed a state or federal standard?	No	No	No	Not expected
Result in CO Hotspot?	No	No	No	No
Expected adverse construction period impact?	No	No	No	No
Noise & Vibration				
Expected number of impacts under FRA criteria	0	0	0	None expected
Expected number of severe impacts under FRA criteria	0	0	0	None expected
Expected number of vibration impacts	0	0	0	None expected
Energy				
Result in Significant Change in Energy Consumption?	Analysis e	xamined project as a whole, comparin	g DEMU, EMU, and No Act	tion.
Biological Resources				
Impose Barrier to wildlife movement	No	No	No	No new barriers
Number of stream crossings	105	117	1	No new crossings
Sensitive plant community acreage affected				
Permanent	0	84 acres of Joshua Tree Woodland; 2 acres of Mesquite Shrubland	0	Assumed 0
Temporary	0	194 acres of Joshua Tree Woodland; 13 acres of Mesquite Shrubland	0	Assumed 0
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Environmental Topic	Segment 3A Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Segment 3B Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs (with Profile Modification and AAA 3-6)	Baker Maintenance of Way Facility	No Action Alternative
Biological Resources Cont'd				
Desert Tortoise habitat acreage affected				
Permanent	7.6	620	0	0
Temporary	40.9	1848	0	0
Mohave Ground Squirrel habitat acreage affected				
Permanent	0	0	0	0
Temporary	70.1	61.5	0	0
Potential to result in direct mortality/loss/dis	turbance to:			
Mojave Fringe-toed Lizard	No	No No		No
Nesting raptors/migratory birds	No	Yes	Yes	No
Banded Gila Monster	No	Yes	No	No
Burrowing Owls	No	Yes	Yes	No
Roosting Bats	No	Yes, in caves and mines No		No
American Badger	Yes	Yes Yes		Yes
Desert Bighorn Sheep	No	Yes No		No
Clark County MSHCP Covered Reptiles	No	No No		No
Acres of Special Management Lands Lost	0	268.5 acres of Superior-Cronese 0 Desert Tortoise Critical Habitat, 226 acres of Ivanpah Desert Tortoise Critical Habitat, 3.6 acres of Cronese ACEC.		0
Section 4(f)				
Number of Section 4(f) properties used				
Park and Recreation	0	0 0		0
Cultural Resources	7	8	0	0
Source: CirclePoint, 2010.				
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Table S-ES-4 Comparison of Segment 4 Alternatives

Low within the Preserve	Low	High within vacant and institutional land uses. Low within residential land uses. High within BLM Class M Lands, Low within BLM Class L Lands	High
High-Low	Medium-High	Medium-High	High
0	0	0	Unknown
None expected	None expected	None expected	None expected
2	1	1	2
NA	NA	NA	None expected
None expected	None expected	None expected	None expected
None	None	None	None expected
Construction period employment	Construction period employment	Construction period employment	None expected
0	0	0	0 expected
0	0	0	0 expected
None	Yes; would traverse an allotment	Yes; would traverse an allotment	None expected
	None expected  None expected  None  Construction period employment  0 0	None expected  None expected  None expected  None expected  None None  Construction period employment  Construction period employment  None Construction period employment  None Construction period employment  None Construction period employment  None Construction period employment	High within BLM Class M Lands, Low within BLM Class L Lands  High-Low Medium-High Medium-High  0 0 0  None expected None expected  2 1 1  NA NA NA  None expected None expected  None expected None expected  None None  Construction period employment  Construction period employment  O 0 0  None  None  Ves; would traverse an Yes; would traverse an allotment

Environmental Topic	Segment 4A Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs			No Action Alternative
Utilities & Emergency Services				
Exceed capacity of utility or service systems:				
Electricity and Gas	No demand associated, unless EMU selected	No demand associated, unless EMU selected	No demand associated, unless EMU selected	Not expected
Water Supply	No demand associated	No demand associated	No demand associated	Not expected
Sewage/Wastewater	No demand associated	No demand associated	No demand associated	Not expected
Stormwater	Would require connections to existing and/or new facilities	Would require connections to new facilities	Would require connections to new facilities	Not expected
Solid Waste	No generation	No generation	No generation	Not expected
Police Services	No	No	No	Not expected
Fire/Emergency Services	New staff, equipment and facility	New staff, equipment and facility	New staff, equipment and facility	Not expected
Potential conflict with existing utility distribution systems	Yes, but conflicts can be mitigated	Yes, but conflicts can be mitigated	Yes, but conflicts can be mitigated	Assumed yes, and that conflicts can be mitigated
Traffic & Transportation				
Result in substantial traffic increases:				
Freeway Mainlines	Between I-40 and the California EMU levels of traffic	LOS would degrade between I-40 and the Nevada state line		
Station Area Intersections	NA	NA	NA	None expected

Environmental Topic	Segment 4A Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Segment 4B Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Segment 4C Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	No Action Alternative
Visual Resources				
Extent of consistency with BLM VRM Objectives	Not consistent within and outside Clark Mountains.	Somewhat within and outside Clark Mountains.	Somewhat within and outside Clark Mountains.	Consistent if impacts remain in existing corridor
Effect to FHWA Visual Quality/Sensitivity With Project	Within Preserve, quality reduced from high to moderate. Moderate quality outside the Preserve.	Moderate quality in Clark Mountains. High quality outside Clark Mountains.	Moderate quality in and outside Clark Mountains.	Consistent if impacts remain in existing corridor
Cultural & Paleontological				
Number of Eligible or Assumed Eligible Archaeological Resources Directly Affected	7	8	10	Unknown
Number of Eligible or Assumed Eligible Archaeological Resources Indirectly Affected	1	1	3	Unknown
Number of Historic Architectural Resources Directly/Indirectly Affected	0	0	0	Assumed 0
Hydrology & Water Quality				
Linear feet of impact to water resources	734	319	1485	Likely substantial due to presence of wash in I-15 median
Acres within a 100-year floodplain	0	0	0	Assumed 0
Result in substantial drainage pattern alteration	No	No	No	Not expected
Estimated peak stormwater discharge (cubic feet/second)	NA	NA	NA	NA

Environmental Topic	Segment 4A Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Segment 4B Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Segment 4C Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	No Action Alternative
Geology & Soils				
Expected likelihood of Surface Fault Rupture	High	High	Low	High
Expected likelihood of ground shaking	Low/Moderate	Low/Moderate	Moderate/High	High
Expected difficulty of excavation	Moderate	High	Moderate	Moderate
Expected likelihood of landslides	Moderate	High	Moderate	Moderate
Hazardous Materials				
Number of properties of environmental concern	1	0	0	0
Air Quality & Global Climate Change				
Exceed a state or federal standard?	No	No	No	Not expected
Result in CO Hotspot?	No	No	No	No
Expected adverse construction period impact?	No	No	Yes, but can be mitigated	No
Noise & Vibration				
Expected number of impacts under FRA criteria	0	0	0	None expected
Expected number of severe impacts under FRA criteria	0	0	0	None expected
Expected number of vibration impacts	0	0	0	None expected
Energy				
Result in Significant Change in Energy Consumption?	Analysis ex	camined project as a whole, compa	aring DEMU, EMU, and No Action.	
Biological Resources				
Impose Barrier to wildlife movement	Yes, outside I-15	Yes, outside I-15	Yes, outside I-15	No new barriers
Number of stream crossings	29	42	48	No new crossings

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Environmental Topic	Segment 4A Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Segment 4B Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Segment 4C Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	No Action Alternative
Biological Resources Cont'd				
Sensitive plant community acreage affected				
Permanent	0.5 acres of Mesquite Shrubland	0	1.9 acres of Mesquite Shrubland	Assumed 0
Temporary	0	0	3.1 acres of Mesquite Shrubland	Assumed 0
Desert Tortoise habitat acreage affected				
Permanent	42.2	111.8	182.9	0
Temporary	371.7	500.3	490	0
Mohave Ground Squirrel habitat acreage affected				
Permanent	0	0	0	0
Temporary	0	0	0	0
Potential to result in direct mortality/loss/disturbance to:				
Mojave Fringe-toed Lizard	No	No	No	No
Nesting raptors/migratory birds	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Banded Gila Monster	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Burrowing Owls	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Roosting Bats	Yes, in caves and mines	Yes, in caves and mines	Yes, in caves and mines	No
American Badger	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Desert Bighorn Sheep	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Clark County MSHCP Covered Reptiles	No	No	Yes	No
Acres of Special Management Lands Lost	20.4 acres of Ivanpah Desert Tortoise Critical Habitat, 13.8 acres of the Mojave National Preserve	0	0	0

Environmental Topic	Segment 4A Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Segment 4B Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Segment 4C Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	No Action Alternative
Section 4(f)				
Number of Section 4(f) properties used				
Park and Recreation	1 (Mojave National Preserve)	0	0	0
Cultural Resources	0	0	0	0

Source: CirclePoint, 2010.

Table S-ES-5 Comparison of Segment 5 Alternatives

Environmental Topic	Segment 5A Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Segment 5B Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Sloan Road MSF	Relocated Sloan MSF (RSMSF)	No Action Alternative
Land Use & Community Impacts					
Compatibility with Adjacent Land Uses	High	High High	High	High	High
Compatibility with Land Use Plans	Low near limited residential areas, Medium to high elsewhere	Low near limited residential areas, Medium to high elsewhere	Low	High within existing undeveloped, Low within residential areas	High
Number of housing units displaced	0	0	0	0	Unknown
Extent of community disruption/severance	None	None	None	None	None expected
Number of environmental justice (EJ) communities crossed by or within 1 mile of facilities	0	0	0	0	Expected to be similar to Segment 5A rail alignment
Growth					
Estimated permanent employment	None	None	154 to 251 station/maintenance loc	None expected	
Removal of obstacles to growth	None expected	None expected	None expected	None expected	None expected
Extent of effects to TOD potential	None	None	None	None	None expected
Extent of effects to economic vitality	Slight adverse effects to Primm and Jean	Slight adverse effects to Primm and Jean	None	None	None expected
Farmlands & Agriculture					
Acres of Directly Impacted Farmland	None	None	None	None	0 expected
Acres of Indirectly Impacted Farmland	None	None	None	None	0 expected
Potential Severance of Grazing Allotment	None	None	None	None	None expected
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Environmental Topic	Segment 5A Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Segment 5B Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Sloan Road MSF	Relocated Sloan MSF (RSMSF)	No Action Alternative
Utilities & Emergency Services					
Exceed capacity of utility or service systems:					
Electricity and Gas	No demand associated, unless EMU selected	No demand associated, unless EMU selected	No	No	Not expected
Water Supply	NA	NA	New conveyance systems would be required	New conveyance systems would be required	Not expected
Sewage/Wastewater	NA	NA	No	New conveyance systems would be required	Not expected
Stormwater	No	No	NA	NA	Not expected
Solid Waste	NA	NA	No	No	Not expected
Police Services	No	No	No	No	Not expected
Fire/Emergency Services	New staff, equipment and a new station	New staff, equipment and a new station	No	No	Not expected
Potential conflict with existing utility distribution systems	Yes, but conflicts can be mitigated	Yes, but conflicts can be mitigated	Unlikely, but any conflicts can be mitigated	Unlikely, but any conflicts can be mitigated	Assumed yes, and that conflicts can be mitigated
Traffic & Transportation					
Result in substantial traffic increases:					
Freeway Mainlines	DEMU or EMU optic	LOS would degrade between Primm and Sloan			
Station Area Intersections	NA	NA	NA	NA	None expected

Environmental Topic	Segment 5A Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Segment 5B Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Sloan Road MSF	Relocated Sloan MSF (RSMSF)	No Action Alternative
Visual Resources					
Extent of consistency with BLM VRM Objectives	Consistent in Primm and Jean. Somewhat consistent elsewhere.	Consistent	Not consistent	Consistent	Consistent if impacts remain in existing corridor
Effect to FHWA Visual Quality/Sensitivity With Project	No change within Primm and Jean. Slight decrease in visual quality elsewhere.	No change within Primm and Jean. Slight decrease in visual quality elsewhere.	Minimal adverse change in visual quality	Minimal adverse change in visual quality	Consistent if impacts remain in existing corridor
Cultural & Paleontological					
Number of Eligible or Assumed Eligible Archaeological Resources Directly Affected	4	16	0	1	Assumed to be same as Segment 5A – 4
Number of Eligible or Assumed Eligible Archaeological Resources Indirectly Affected	2	10	0	0	Assumed to be same as Segment 5A - 2
Number of Historic Architectural Resources Directly/Indirectly Affected	0	0	0	0	Assumed 0
Hydrology & Water Quality					
Linear feet of impact to water resources	0	0	0	0	Assumed similar to Segment 5A - 0
Acres within a 100-year floodplain	0	0.9	0	0	Assumed similar to Segment 5A – 0
Result in substantial drainage pattern alteration	No	No	No	No	Not expected
Estimated peak stormwater discharge (cubic feet/second)	NA	NA	Unknown	Unknown	NA
Geology & Soils					
Expected likelihood of Surface Fault Rupture	None	None	None	None	High
Expected likelihood of ground shaking	Low to High	Low to High	Low to High	Low to High	High

Environmental Topic	Segment 5A Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Segment 5B Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Sloan Road MSF	Relocated Sloan MSF (RSMSF)	No Action Alternative
Geology & Soils Cont'd					
Expected difficulty of excavation	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Expected likelihood of landslides	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Hazardous Materials					
Number of properties of environmental concern	0	0	0	0	0
Air Quality & Global Climate Change					
Exceed a state or federal standard?	No	No	No	No	Not expected
Result in CO Hotspot?	No	No	No	No	No
Expected adverse construction period impact?	No	No	No	No	No
Noise & Vibration					
Expected number of impacts under FRA criteria	0	0	0	0	None expected
Expected number of severe impacts under FRA criteria	0	0	0	0	None expected
Expected number of vibration impacts	0	0	0	0	None expected
Energy					
Result in Significant Change in Energy Consumption?	Analysis e	xamined project as a who	ole, comparing DEMU,	EMU, and No Action.	
Biological Resources					
Impose Barrier to wildlife movement	No	No	No	No	No new barriers
Number of stream crossings	49	49	1	0	No new crossings

Environmental Topic	Segment 5A Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Segment 5B Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Sloan Road MSF	Relocated Sloan MSF (RSMSF)	No Action Alternative
Biological Resources Cont'd					
Sensitive plant community acreage affected					
Permanent	0	0	0	0	Assumed 0
Temporary	0	0	0	0	Assumed 0
Desert Tortoise habitat acreage affected					
Permanent	0.2	203.2	9.7 to 13.9	9.1	0
Temporary	8.7	685.6	0	11.4	0
Mohave Ground Squirrel habitat acreage affected					
				_	
Permanent	0	0	0	0	0
Permanent Temporary	0	0	0	0	0
	0				
Temporary	0				
Temporary Potential to result in direct mortality/lo	0 pss/disturbance to: No	0	0	0	0
Temporary Potential to result in direct mortality/lo Mojave Fringe-toed Lizard	0 pss/disturbance to: No	0 No	0 No	0 No	0 No
Temporary Potential to result in direct mortality/lo Mojave Fringe-toed Lizard Nesting raptors/migratory birds	0 pss/disturbance to: No Yes	0 No Yes	0 No Yes	0 No Yes	0 No No
Temporary Potential to result in direct mortality/lo Mojave Fringe-toed Lizard Nesting raptors/migratory birds Banded Gila Monster	0 pss/disturbance to: No Yes No	No Yes No	No Yes No	0 No Yes Yes	No No No
Temporary Potential to result in direct mortality/lo Mojave Fringe-toed Lizard Nesting raptors/migratory birds Banded Gila Monster Burrowing Owls	0 pss/disturbance to: No Yes No No	No Yes No Yes	No Yes No No	No Yes Yes Yes	No No No No
Temporary  Potential to result in direct mortality/lo  Mojave Fringe-toed Lizard  Nesting raptors/migratory birds  Banded Gila Monster  Burrowing Owls  Roosting Bats	0 pss/disturbance to:  No Yes No No No No	No Yes No Yes Yes Yes	No Yes No No No	No Yes Yes Yes No	No No No No
Temporary  Potential to result in direct mortality/lo  Mojave Fringe-toed Lizard  Nesting raptors/migratory birds  Banded Gila Monster  Burrowing Owls  Roosting Bats  American Badger	0 pss/disturbance to:  No Yes No No No No Yes	No Yes No Yes Yes Yes Yes	No Yes No No No Yes	No Yes Yes Yes No Yes	No No No No No No Yes

Environmental Topic	Segment 5A Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Segment 5B Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Sloan Road MSF	Relocated Sloan MSF (RSMSF)	No Action Alternative
Section 4(f)					
Number of Section 4(f) properties used					
Park and Recreation	0	0	0	0	0
Cultural Resources	0	4	0	0	0

Source: CirclePoint, 2010.

Table S-ES-6 Comparison of Segment 6 Alternatives

Environmental Topic	Segment 6A Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Segment 6B Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs (with AAAs 7-8)	Segment 6C Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Wigwam MSF Modification	Robindale MSF	Frias Substation	No Action Alternative
Land Use & Community Impacts							
Compatibility with Adjacent Land Uses	High near undeveloped and commercial/industrial uses, Low near residential uses	High near undeveloped and commercial/industrial uses, Low near residential uses	High near undeveloped and commercial/industri al uses, Low near residential uses	Medium to High	Medium	Medium to High	High
Compatibility with Land Use Plans	Low near residential areas, Medium to high elsewhere*	Low near residential areas, Medium to high elsewhere*	Low near residential areas, Medium to high elsewhere	Medium to High	Low	Medium within residential areas, High within Business & Design and Research land uses	High
Number of housing units displaced	0	0	0	0	1	0	Unknown
Extent of community disruption/severance	None	None	Division through Sloan	None	None	None	None expected
Number of environmental justice (EJ) communities crossed by or within 1 mile of facilities	Would cross 4 EJ census blocks (minority and poverty)	Would cross 4 EJ census blocks (minority and poverty)	Would cross 2 EJ census blocks (minority and poverty)	0	0	0	Expected to be similar to Segment 6A rail alignment
Growth							
Estimated permanent employment	None	None	None	154 to 251 jobs from the station/MSF regardless of location	154 to 251 jobs from the station/MSF regardless of location	None	None expected
Removal of obstacles to growth	None	None	None	None	None	None	None expected

Environmental Topic	Segment 6A Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Segment 6B Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs (with AAAs 7-8)	Segment 6C Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Wigwam MSF Modification	Robindale MSF	Frias Substation	No Action Alternative
Growth Cont'd			_				
Extent of effects to TOD potential	None	None	None	None	None	None	None expected
Extent of effects to economic vitality	Construction Period Employment	Construction Period Employment	Construction Period Employment	Beneficial construction and operational employment effects similar for all station/ OMSF sites	Beneficial construction and operational employment effects similar for all station/ OMSF sites	Construction Period Employment	None expected
Farmlands & Agriculture							
Acres of Directly Impacted Farmland	None	None	None	None	None	None	None expected
Acres of Indirectly Impacted Farmland	None	None	None	None	None	None	None expected
Potential Severance of Grazing Allotment	None	None	None	None	None	None	None expected
Utilities & Emergency Services							
Exceed capacity of utility or service systems:							
Electricity and Gas	No demand associated, unless EMU selected	No demand associated, unless EMU selected	No demand associated, unless EMU selected	No	No	No	Not expected
Water Supply	No	No	No	No	No	No	Not expected
Sewage/Wastewater	No	No	No	No	No	No	Not expected
Stormwater	No	No	No	No	No	No	Not expected
Solid Waste	No	No	No	No	No	No	Not expected
Police Services	No	No	No	No	No	No	Not expected

Environmental Topic	Segment 6A Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Segment 6B Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs (with AAAs 7-8)	Segment 6C Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Wigwam MSF Modification	Robindale MSF	Frias Substation	No Action Alternative
Utilities & Emergency S	Services Cont'd						
Fire/Emergency Services	New staff, equipment and a new station	New staff, equipment and a new station	New staff, equipment and a new station	No	No	None expected	Not expected
Potential conflict with existing utility distribution systems	Yes, but conflicts can be mitigated	Yes, but conflicts can be mitigated	Yes, but conflicts can be mitigated	Yes, but conflicts can be mitigated	Yes, but conflicts can be mitigated	Yes, but conflicts can be mitigated	Assumed yes, and that conflicts can be mitigated
Traffic & Transportation							
Result in substantial traffic increases:							
Freeway Mainlines	DEMU and EMU options would reduce freeway volumes and positively affect LOS						LOS would degrade between Sloan and I-215
Station Area Intersections	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	None expected
Visual Resources							
Extent of consistency with BLM VRM Objectives	Somewhat consistent in undeveloped southern portions, consistent elsewhere.	Somewhat consistent in undeveloped southern portions, consistent elsewhere.	Consistent	Consistent	Consistent	Somewhat consistent near residential areas	Consistent if impacts remain in existing corridor
Effect to FHWA Visual Quality/Sensitivity With Project	No change	No change	No change	No change	No change	No change	Consistent if impacts remain in existing corridor
Cultural & Paleontological							
Number of Eligible or Assumed Eligible Archaeological Resources Directly Affected	1	0	19	0	0	0	Assumed to be same as Segment 6A - 1
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Environmental Topic	Segment 6A Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Segment 6B Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs (with AAAs 7-8)	Segment 6C Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Wigwam MSF Modification	Robindale MSF	Frias Substation	No Action Alternative
Cultural & Paleontologic	al Cont'd						
Number of Eligible or Assumed Eligible Archaeological Resources Indirectly Affected	0	1	4	0	0	0	Assumed to be same as Segment 6A - 0
Number of Historic Architectural Resources Directly/Indirectly Affected	0	0	0	0	0	0	Assumed 0
Hydrology & Water Quality							
Linear feet of impact to water resources	0	0	77	0	0	50	Assumed similar to Segment 6A - 0
Acres within a 100-year floodplain	0.8 to 12.6	23	3.7 to 4.2	1.7 to 2.1	0	0	Assumed similar to Segment 6A – up to 12.6
Result in substantial drainage pattern alteration	No	No	No	No	No	No	Not expected
Estimated peak stormwater discharge (cubic feet/second)	NA	NA	NA	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	NA
Geology & Soils							
Expected likelihood of Surface Fault Rupture	None	None	None	None	None	None	High
Expected likelihood of ground shaking	Low to Moderate	Low to Moderate	Low to Moderate	Low to Moderate	Low to Moderate	Low	High
Expected difficulty of excavation	High	High	High	High	High	High	Moderate
Expected likelihood of landslides	Moderate	Moderate	Low to Moderate	Moderate	Low to Moderate	Low	Moderate
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Environmental Topic	Segment 6A Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Segment 6B Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs (with AAAs 7-8)	Segment 6C Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Wigwam MSF Modification	Robindale MSF	Frias Substation	No Action Alternative
<b>Hazardous Materials</b>							
Number of properties of environmental concern	6	6	3	0	0	0	0
Air Quality & Global Climate Change							
Exceed a state or federal standard?	No	No	No	No	No	No	Not expected
Result in CO Hotspot?	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Expected adverse construction period impact?	No	No	No	No	No	Yes, but can be mitigated	No
Noise & Vibration							
Expected number of impacts under FRA criteria	358 for EMU, 268 for DEMU	371 for EMU, 303 for DEMU	0	0	0	0	None expected
Expected number of severe impacts under FRA criteria	0	13 for EMU, 37 for DEMU	0	0	0	0	None expected
Expected number of vibration impacts	0	0	0	0	0	0	None expected
Energy							
Result in Significant Change in Energy Consumption?		Analysis examined	project as a whole, co	omparing DEMU,	EMU, and No	Action.	
<b>Biological Resources</b>							
Impose Barrier to wildlife movement	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No new barriers
Number of stream crossings	16 to 18	16 to 18	26 to 27	1	1	0	No new crossings

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Environmental Topic	Segment 6A Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Segment 6B Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs (with AAAs 7-8)	Segment 6C Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Wigwam MSF Modification	Robindale MSF	Frias Substation	No Action Alternative
Biological Resources Co	ont'd						
Sensitive plant community acreage affected							
Permanent	0	0	0	0	0	4.6 acres of Mojave Creosote habitat	Assumed 0
Temporary	0	0	0	0	0	0	Assumed 0
Desert Tortoise habitat acreage affected							
Permanent	40.2	38	78.2	3	8.8	0	0
Temporary	116.6	116.6	329.2	0	0	0	0
Mohave Ground Squirrel habitat acreage affected							
Permanent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Potential to result in direct mortality/loss/disturbance to:							
Mojave Fringe-toed Lizard	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Nesting raptors/migratory birds	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Banded Gila Monster	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Burrowing Owls	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Roosting Bats	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
American Badger	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Desert Bighorn Sheep	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
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Environmental Topic	Segment 6A Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Segment 6B Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs (with AAAs 7-8)	Segment 6C Rail Alignment and Associated TCAs	Wigwam MSF Modification	Robindale MSF	Frias Substation	No Action Alternative
Biological Resources Co	ont'd						
Clark County MSHCP Covered Reptiles	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Acres of Special Management Lands Lost	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Section 4(f)							
Number of Section 4(f) properties used							
Park and Recreation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cultural Resources	0	0	2	0	0	0	0

Source: CirclePoint, 2010.

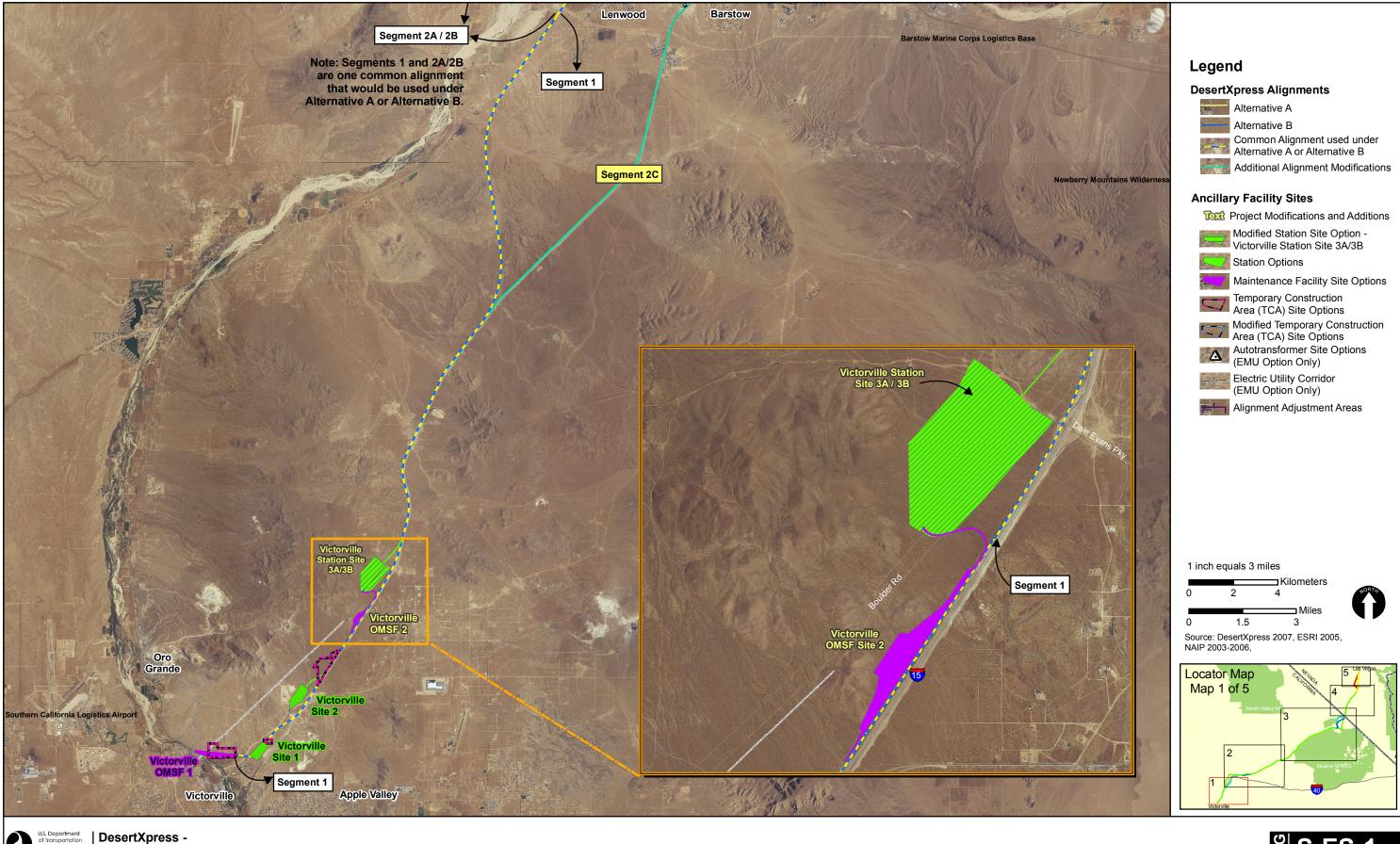
## ES-5 AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION OF ADVERSE EFFECTS

As currently planned, the DesertXpress Project would avoid and minimize many potential adverse environmental effects. **Chapter 3**, includes in each topic area a discussion of mitigation measures and strategies. In addition, design and construction practices have been identified that would be employed as the DesertXpress project is developed further in the final design phase and construction stages. Key aspects of the design practices include, but are not limited to the following:

- Minimize impact footprint and associated direct impacts to farmlands, parklands, biological, and water resources through maximum use of existing transportation corridors.
- Increase safety and circulation and potentially reduce air pollution and noise impacts through use of grade separation at road crossings.
- Placement of the majority of the DesertXpress alignment within existing highway and railroad rights-of-way, to reduce the need for additional right-of-way and minimize potential impacts to agricultural resources and other natural resources.
- Cooperate with regulatory agencies to develop acceptable specific design and construction standards for steam crossings, including but not limited to maintaining open surface (bridged versus closed culvert) crossings, infrastructure setbacks, erosion control measures, sediment-controlling excavation/fill practices, and other best management practices.
- Fully lined tunnels with impermeable material to prevent infiltration of groundwater or surface waters.

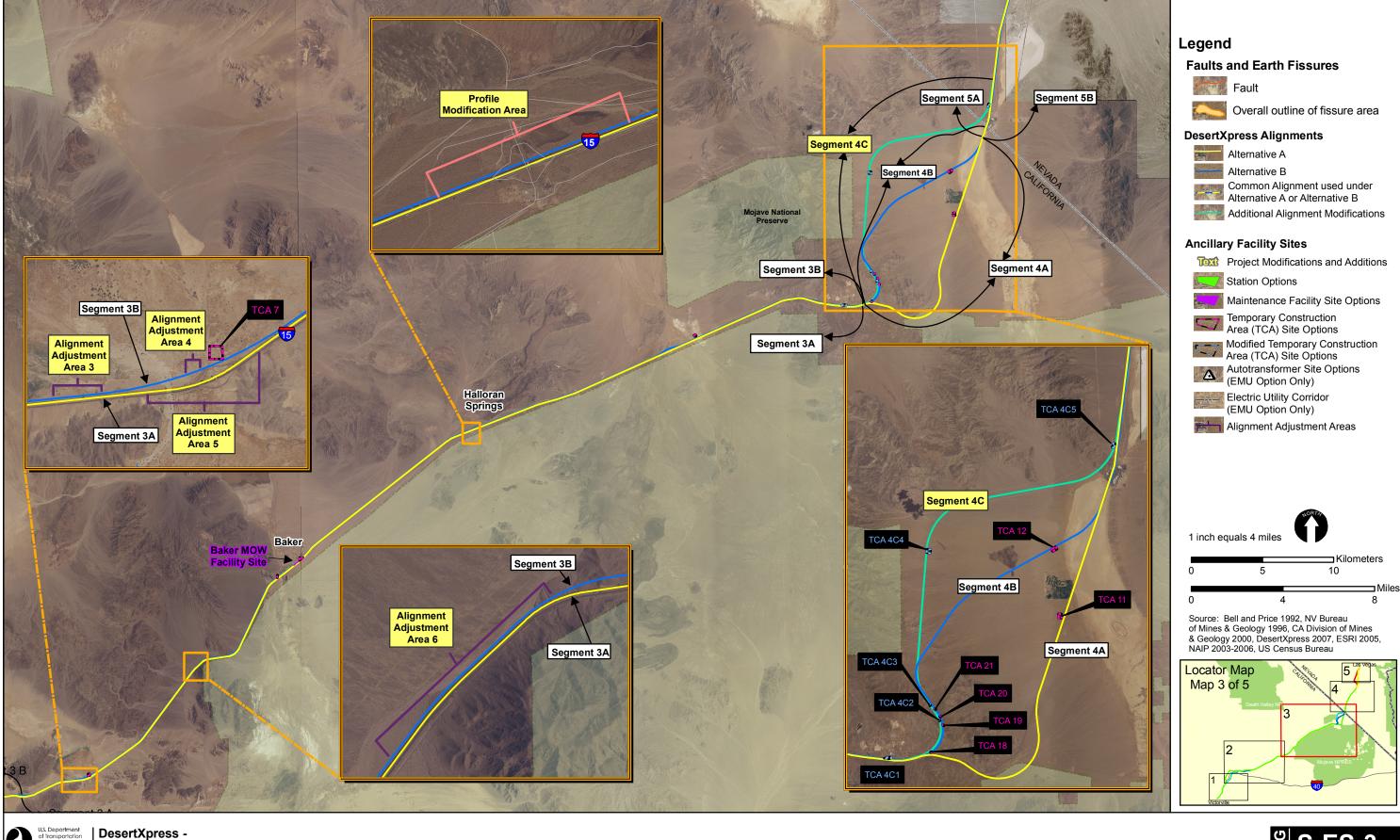
## **ES-6 PUBLIC AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT**

This Draft EIS has been prepared with extensive public and agency involvement, which is summarized in **Chapter 4.0**, **Comments and Coordination**.

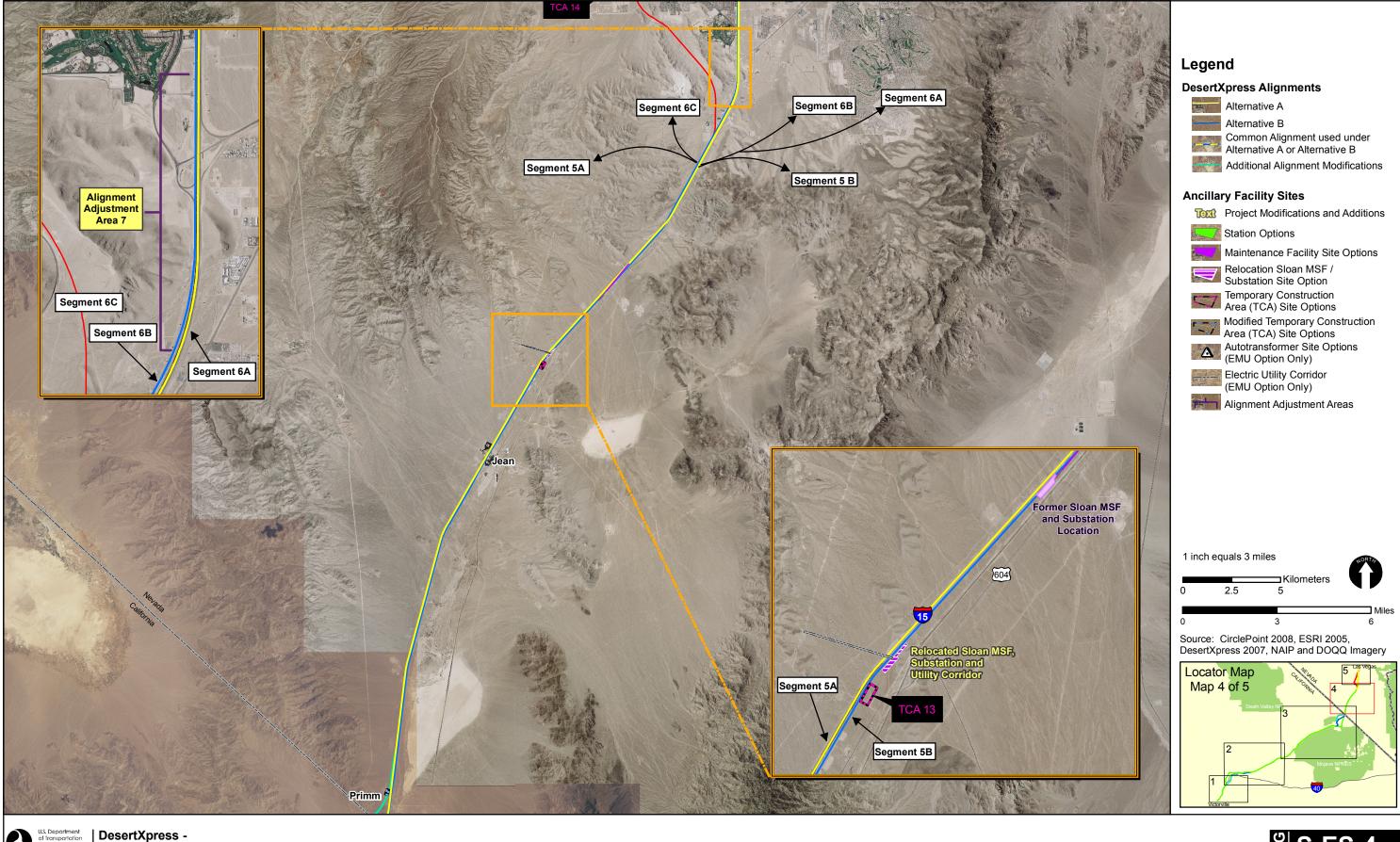


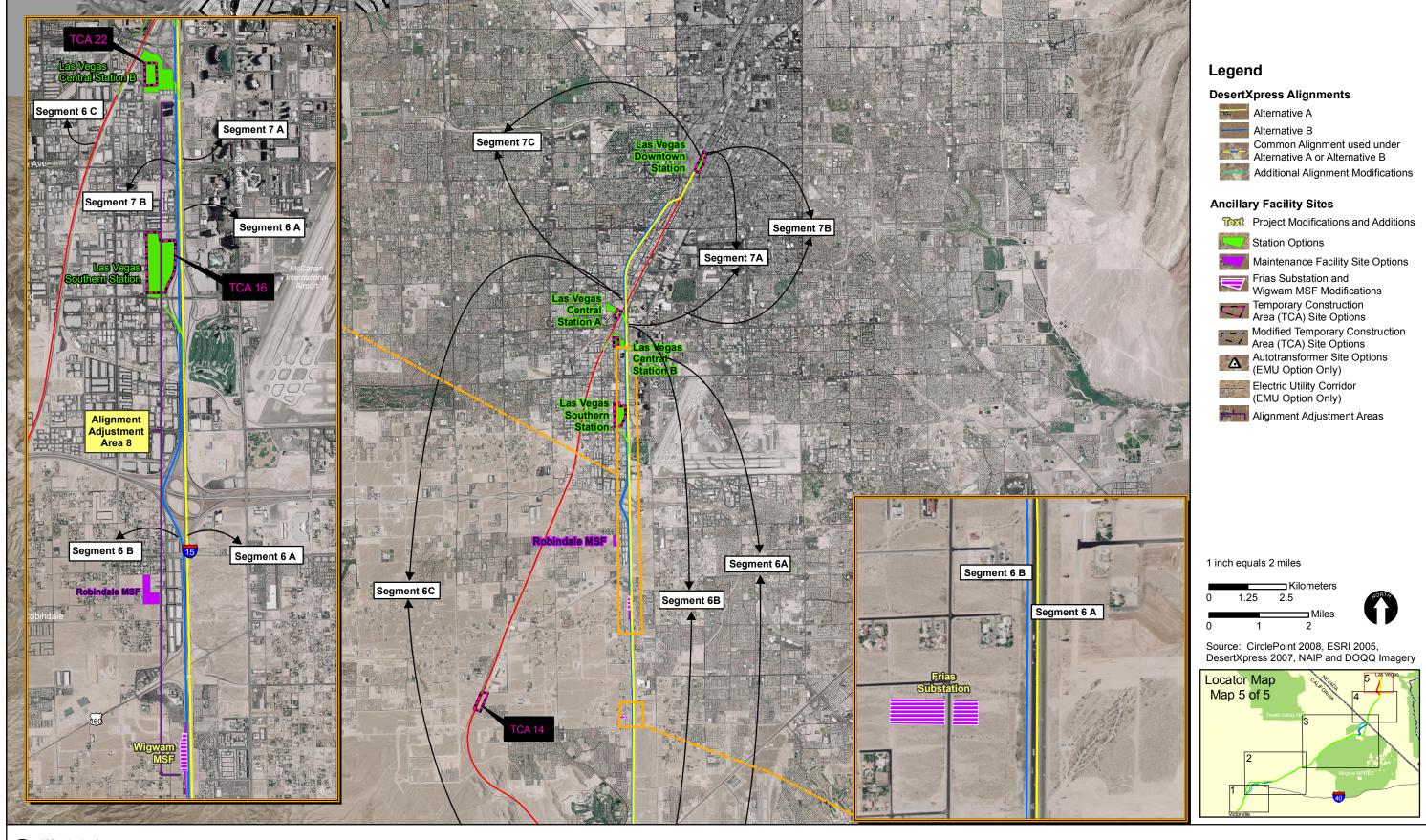


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