

CITY OF HERCULES INTERMODAL TRANSIT CENTER

Final Environmental Impact Statement

Prepared by

City of Hercules

111 Civic Drive

Hercules, California 94547-1771

and the

Federal Transit Administration Region IX

U.S. Department of Transportation

201 Mission Street

Suite 1650

San Francisco, CA 94105-1839

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**HERCULES INTERMODAL TRANSIT CENTER
Hercules, California**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PREPARED PURSUANT TO:

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, §102 (42 U.S.C. §4332); Federal Transit Law (49 U.S.C. §5301(e), §5323(b) and §5324(b)); Section 4(f), formerly of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (49 U.S.C. §303; National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 § 106 (16 U.S.C. §470f); Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. §1531 et seq.); Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. §1801 et seq.); Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands); Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice)

by the

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

and the

CITY OF HERCULES, CALIFORNIA



Leslie T. Rogers
Regional Administrator, Region IX
Federal Transit Administration

4/19/2012

Date of Approval



Steve Duran
City Manager
City of Hercules, California

04/09/2012

Date of Approval

ABSTRACT

The City of Hercules, California (Hercules) proposes to construct an intermodal transit center (ITC), associated roadway improvements, and ancillary facilities at a site along the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) corridor adjacent to San Pablo Bay in Contra Costa County. This document is a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and analyzes the environmental impacts of the ITC and has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The City intends, in part, to construct this facility with federal funding, which invokes the application of NEPA, and the Federal Transit Administration is acting as the federal lead agency. Hercules will also coordinate with the Capital Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA) to provide intercity passenger rail service to the site and the Western Contra Costa Transit Authority (WestCAT) to provide bus connections.

Prior to identifying a preferred alternative, various sites along the UPRR corridor were considered and rejected due to a variety of reasons, including safety considerations (inadequate sight lines), engineering constraints, or fewer projected transit riders. The attached FEIS considers two action alternatives (one on the west side of Refugio Creek and the other on the east side) and the No Action alternative. The preferred alternative has been identified as Alternative 1, with Track Option B. This alternative includes the transit station west of Refugio Creek and includes a third dedicated station track through the ITC site, which would reduce freight and passenger train conflicts by allowing freight trains to bypass the site while passenger trains are at the station.

Environmental concerns include potential adverse effects to biological resources from clearing the site, realigning Refugio Creek, and dredging a new channel into San Pablo Bay to facilitate flow of Refugio Creek during heavy rain fall and high tides. The proposed project would move the UPRR tracks closer to sensitive receptors and there would be a slight increase in noise as a result of the proposed project and the project would introduce a new source of light and glare into a location on the bayfront where currently none exists. Other elements of the built environment would experience a beneficial effect from improved access to public transit services and the project would further the City of Hercules' land use goals.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS DOCUMENT, CONTACT:

Steve Duran, City Manager
City Manager's Office
City of Hercules
111 Civic Drive
Hercules, CA 94547
510-799-8251
SDuran@ci.hercules.ca.us

Paul Page, Community Planner
Office of Planning & Program Management
Federal Transit Administration, Region IX
201 Mission Street, Suite 1650
San Francisco, CA 94105
415-744-3133
Paul.Page@dot.gov

A 30-day period has been established for comments on this document. Comments must be submitted in writing and should be submitted to Steve Duran or Paul Page at the addresses provided above.

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AB	Assembly Bill
ABAG	Association of Bay Area Governments
AChP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
Agency	California Natural Resources Agency
AIRFA	American Indian Religious Freedom Act
APE	area of potential effect
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
AT&SF	Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad
BAAQMD	Bay Area Air Quality Management District
BART	Bay Area Rapid Transit
Bay Plan	San Francisco Bay Plan
BCDC	Bay Conservation and Development Commission
BDAT	Bay Delta and Tributaries Project
BMP	Best Management Practice
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
CAFE	Corporate Average Fuel Economy
Cal/EPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CAP	Clean Air Plans
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CAT	California Climate Action Team
CCAA	California Clean Air Act
CCCWMA	Contra Costa County Watershed Management Area
CCCL	Contra Costa County Library
CCJPA	Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CCTA	Contra Costa Transportation Authority
CCTS	Central California Taxonomic System
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CE	carapace width
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CFC	chlorofluorocarbons
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
Cfs	cubic feet per second
CH ₂ =CH-C1	vinyl chloride
CH ₄	methane
CHSC	California Health and Safety Code
CMP	Congestion Management Program
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database

CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	carbon monoxide
CO ₂ e	carbon dioxide equivalents
CPT	Cone Penetration Test
CPUC	California Public Utilities Commission
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
CRLF	California red-legged frog
CSLC	California State Lands Commission
Cy	cubic yard
CWA	Clean Water Act
dB	decibel
dBA Ldn	A-weighted decibel Daytime-Nighttime Noise Level
Delta	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
DPR	California Department of Parks and Recreation
DTSC	California Department of Toxic Substance Control
EBMUD	East Bay Municipal Utilities District
EBRPD	East Bay Regional Park District
EIR	environmental impact report
EIS	environmental impact statement
EFH	essential fish habitat
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
ESA	Endangered Species Act
EVA	emergency vehicle access
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy Management Act
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
General Plan	City of Hercules General Plan
GHG	greenhouse gas
GPS	Global Positioning System
GWP	Global Warming Potential
H ₂ S	hydrogen sulfide
H ₂ O(g)	water vapor
HAP	hazardous air pollutants
HB	Hercules Bayfront
HCFC	hydrochlorofluorocarbons
HFC	hydrofluorocarbons
HMU	Hercules Municipal Utility
HNTC	Hercules New Town Center
HOV	high occupancy vehicle
HPC	Hercules Powder Company
HRC	Hercules-Rodeo-Crockett
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
HWMP	Hazardous Waste Management Plan
Initiative	Waterfront Plan District Master Plan Initiative

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ITC	Intermodal Transit Center
I-80	Interstate 80
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
JPA	Joint Powers Authority
kWh	kilowatt-hours
LAFCO	Local Agency Formation Commission
LCFS	Low-Carbon Fuel Standard
LGOP	Local Government Operations Protocol
LHMP	Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
LOS	level-of-service
LWCFA	Department of Interior Land and Water Conservation Fund Act
mgd	million gallons per day
mm/sec	millimeters per second
mm/yr	millimeters per year
Magnuson-Stevens Act	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
M _L	Local Magnitude
MEI	Maximally Exposed Individual
MLLW	mean lower low water
MMPA	Marine Mammal Protection Act
MMRP	Mitigation and Monitoring Reporting Plan
MMT	million metric tons
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
msl	mean sea level
MTC	Metropolitan Transportation Commission
MTL	mean tide level
MT/yr	metric tons per year
M _w	Moment Magnitude
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NESHAP	National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants
NGVD	National Geodetic Vertical Datum
NHD	National Hydrography Dataset
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOA	Notice of Availability
NO ₂	nitrogen dioxide
NO _x	oxides of nitrogen
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NWIC	Northwest Information Center
O ₃	ozone
OAL	Office of Administrative Law
OES	Office of Emergency Services
OHWM	ordinary high water mark
OPR	Governor's Office of Planning and Research
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OUs	Operable Units

Pb	lead
PBDEs	Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (flame retardants)
PC-R	Planned Commercial Residential
PFC	perfluorocarbons
PM	particulate matter
ppm	parts per million
ppt	parts per trillion
PPV	peak particle velocity
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RDA	Redevelopment Agency
Red Barn	The Red Barn Company
RFS	Renewable Fuel Standard
RHFPD	Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District
RMP	Regional Monitoring Program
RMS	root mean square
ROD	Record of Decision
ROG	reactive organic gases
ROW	right-of-way
RTAC	Regional Targets Advisory Committee
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SAFETEA-LU	Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users
sf	square feet
SF ₆	sulfur hexafluoride
SFBAAB	San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin
SFC	sulfur hexafluoride
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SO ₄	sulfates
SO ₂	sulfur dioxide
SR-4	State Route 4
SRRE	Source Reduction and Recycling Element
SPBWRP	San Pablo Bay Watershed Restoration Program
SPT	Standard Penetration Test
SWMP	Stormwater Management Plan
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
TAC	toxic air contaminants
TCM	transportation control measures
TIP	Transportation Implementation Plan
TMDLs	total maximum daily loads
TOD	transit oriented development
TSO	traffic service objectives
UPRR	Union Pacific Railroad
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGBC	U.S. Green Building Council

Acronyms and Abbreviations

USGS	United States Geological Survey
USC	United States Code
UWMP	Urban Water Management Plan
UV	ultraviolet
VPFS	vernal pool fairy shrimp
v/c ratio	volume to capacity (measure to traffic on roadways)
WC	Waterfront Commercial
WestCAT	Western Contra Costa Transit Authority
WCCTAC	West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee
WCCUSD	West Contra Costa Unified School District
WDMP	Waterfront District Master Plan
WETA	Water Emergency Transportation Authority
WSA	water supply assessment
WTA	Water Transit Authority
WWA	Wetland Wildlife Associates
WWR	Wetlands and Water Resources, Inc.

Appendices

The following Appendices are available on the enclosed CD:

Appendix A. List of Preparers

Appendix B. Scoping:

Appendix C. Agency Participation and Consultation

Appendix D. Public Review of Draft EIREIS and Comment Letters on Project Alternatives

Appendix E. Section 7 Consultation

Appendix F. Section 106 Consultation

Appendix G. Biological Resources Information

Appendix H. EDR Radius Map Report with GeoCheck

Appendix I. Air Quality Analysis

Appendix J. Hercules ITC Traffic Impact Analysis