The public is invited to comment on the recently completed draft environmental report for a section of the state's high-speed rail route that will run through the Antelope Valley. Comments will be collected through April 13.

Valley Press files

LANCASTER — A draft environmental report for the section of the state bullet train route between Bakersfield and Palmdale has been completed and is available for public comment.

The California High Speed Rail Authority will collect public comments on the draft environmental document through April 13.

The proposed bullet train that would link Los Angeles and San Francisco is facing an uncertain future, given escalating costs and declining political support. However, work continues in completing the required environmental studies and documentation for preferred routes in each section between stations.
The Bakersfield to Palmdale report covers the 80-mile section that crosses the Tehachapi Mountains and travels through Rosamond and Lancaster before reaching the planned station in Palmdale at approximately the site of the existing Metrolink station.

A series of open house meetings is scheduled to allow the public to see the report and ask questions and for the Authority to collect comments on the documents.

Two meetings are scheduled locally, with the first from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday at Jane Reynolds Park Activity Center, 716 Oldfield St. in Lancaster.

The second meeting will be from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on March 26 at the Rosamond Public Library, 3611 Rosamond Blvd.

Ultimately, the draft document will be subject of a public hearing on April 9 in Bakersfield.

Copies of the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement are available online at www.hsr.ca.gov