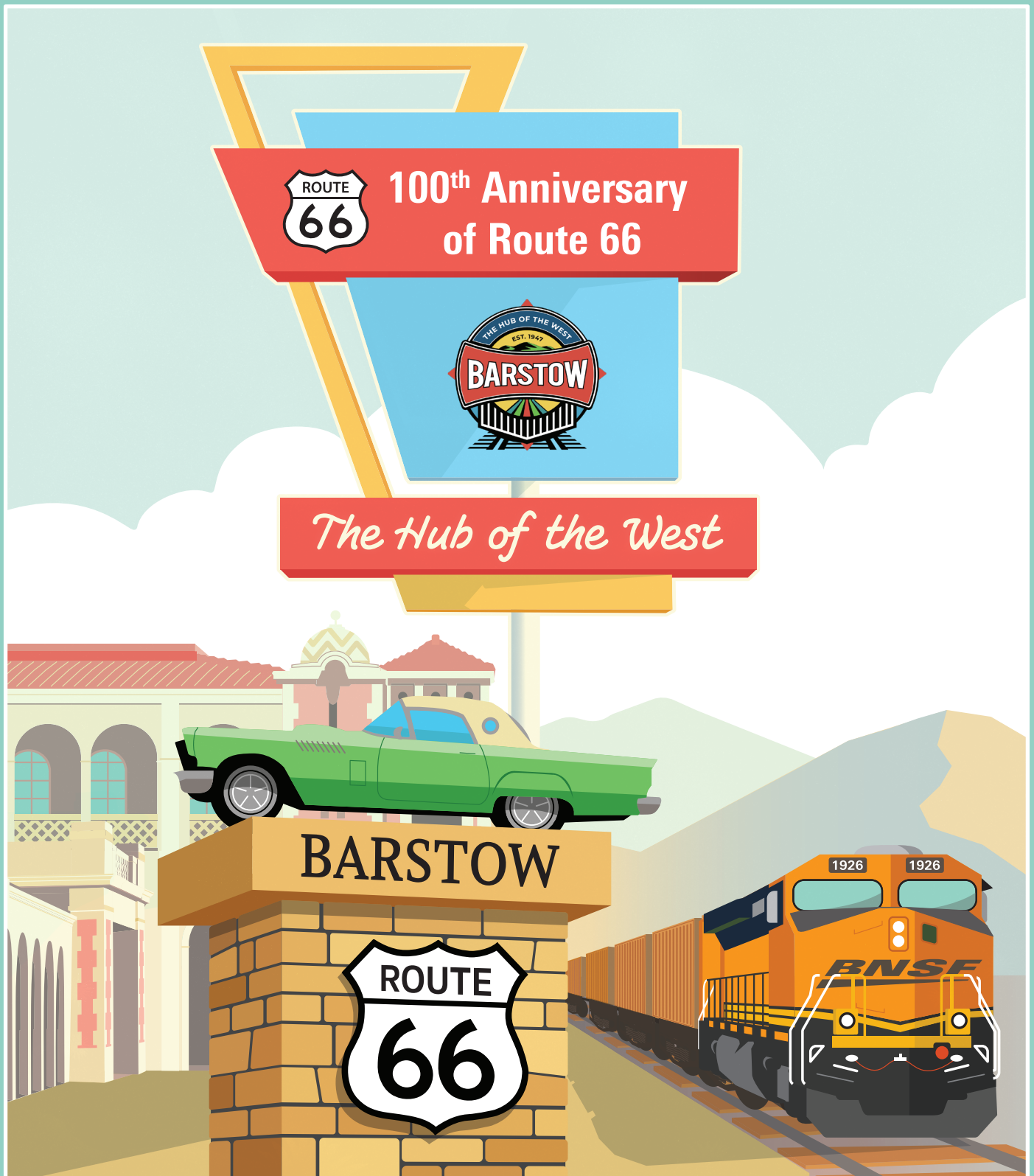




May 2026

State Clearinghouse Number: 2024020501

City of Barstow General Plan and Barstow International Gateway Project Final Environmental Impact Report





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May 2026

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Acknowledgements

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	INTRODUCTION	1-1
1.1	Public Review Draft Environmental Impact Report.....	1-1
1.2	Recirculated Public Review Draft Environmental Impact Report	1-1
1.3	Final Environmental Impact Report	1-1
2.0	COMMENT LETTERS AND RESPONSES	2-1
2.1	List of Public Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals Commenting on the DEIR	2-1
2.2	Comments and Responses Structure	2-3
2.3	Consolidated Responses	2-4
2.4	Public Agency Comment Letters and Responses	2-82
	Federal Agency Comments and Responses	2-82
	State Agency Comments and Responses.....	2-87
	Local Agency Comments and Responses.....	2-273
2.5	Organization Comment Letters and Responses.....	2-429
	<i>*Response to Comment O21, EarthJustice – provided as a separate file</i>	
2.6	Individual Comment Letters and Responses.....	2-944
3.0	ERRATA.....	3-1
3.1	Introduction to the Errata.....	3-1
3.2	Changes to the DEIR	3-1
4.0	MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM.....	4-1

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2-1: List of Commenting Public Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals.....	2-1
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LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 3.0-1: Emissions Errata

Appendix 3.0-2: Emissions Errata

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

In accordance with State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §§ 15120 through 15132, the City of Barstow (“City”) prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (“Draft EIR”) for the Proposed General Plan and Barstow International Gateway (“BIG”) Project (collectively, “the Project”) (State Clearinghouse Number 2024020501). Under Public Resources Code § 21165 and State CEQA Guidelines § 15050, the City is the lead agency for the Project.

The City has given public notice of the availability (“NOA”) of the Draft EIR pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines § 15087, as follows:

- The NOA was mailed to the last known name and address of all organizations and individuals who had previously requested such notice in writing.
- The NOA was published on November 10, 2025, in the Victorville Daily Press, the newspaper of the largest circulation in the area affected by the proposed Project.
- The NOA was published on the City’s website, <https://www.barstowgeneralplanupdate.com>

On November 9, 2025, the NOA was filed with the Clerk of the County of San Bernardino and, along with the Notice of Completion, filed with the State Clearinghouse, Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation. The Draft EIR was made available directly to State agencies through the State Clearinghouse. State CEQA Guidelines § 15105 specifies that when a Draft EIR is submitted to the State Clearinghouse for review by State agencies, the public review period shall not be less than 45 days. To provide additional time for public review, the Draft EIR’s public review period was extended by 19 days. In total, the Draft EIR was made available for review and comment to the public, responsible and trustee agencies, interested groups, and organizations for a 63-day public review period (November 10, 2025, to January 12, 2026). The Draft EIR was also made available for public review at the following locations:

- Barstow Library: 304 E Buena Vista Street, Barstow, CA 92311
- Barstow City Hall Planning Department: 220 East Mountain View Street, Suite A, Barstow, CA 92311
- Accessed via <https://www.barstowgeneralplanupdate.com>.

1.2 EVALUATION OF AND RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

Public Resources Code (PRC) §§ 21091(d) and 21092.5 and State CEQA Guidelines § 15088(a) specify the lead agency’s requirement to respond to comments provided on a Draft EIR. State CEQA Guidelines § 15088 is summarized below:

- a) The lead agency shall evaluate comments on environmental issues received from persons who reviewed the draft EIR and shall prepare a written response. The Lead Agency shall respond to comments raising significant environmental issues received during the noticed comment period and any extensions and may respond to late comments.

- b) The lead agency shall provide a written proposed response, either in a printed copy or in an electronic format, to a public agency on comments made by that public agency at least 10 days prior to certifying an environmental impact report.
- c) The written response shall describe the disposition of significant environmental issues raised (e.g., revisions to the proposed project to mitigate anticipated impacts or objections).

State CEQA Guidelines § 15204 clarifies the reviewers' key focus areas and the lead agency's role in responding to those comments. State CEQA Guidelines § 15204 specifies that "CEQA does not require a lead agency to conduct every test or perform all research, study, and experimentation recommended or demanded by commentors. When responding to comments, lead agencies need only respond to significant environmental issues and do not need to provide all information requested by reviewers, as long as a good faith effort at full disclosure is made in the EIR."

In accordance with these requirements, the City has evaluated all comments received on environmental issues from public agencies, organizations, and individuals who reviewed the Draft EIR. The City has prepared written responses to comments raising significant environmental issues received during the public review period; see **Final EIR Section 2.0: Comment Letters and Responses** below. The proposed responses provided in **Final EIR Section 2.0** describe the disposition of significant environmental issues raised. The level of detail contained in each response generally corresponds to the level of detail provided in the comment. Further, given the volume of repetitive/similar comments received, the City has prepared "Consolidated Responses" to efficiently address recurring themes and complex issues raised by multiple commenters, improve the response's comprehensiveness, and reduce repetition.

1.3 FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

State CEQA Guidelines §15132 states the Final EIR ("Final EIR") shall consist of:

- The Draft EIR or a revision of the draft;
- Comments and recommendations received on the Draft EIR either verbatim or in summary;
- A list of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the Draft EIR;
- The Lead Agency's responses to significant environmental points raised in the review and consultation process; and
- Any other information added by the Lead Agency.

As such, this Final EIR consists of the following sections:

- Section 1.0: Introduction
- Section 2.0: Comments and Responses
 - Section 2.1: List of Public Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals Commenting on the Draft EIR
 - Section 2.2: Organization of Comments and Responses
 - Section 2.3: Consolidated Responses: This section provides Consolidated Responses to efficiently address recurring themes and issues raised by multiple commenters.

- Section 2.4: Public Agency Comments and Responses - The public agency comments and responses are further organized as follows:
 - Section 2.4.1: Federal Agency Comments and Responses
 - Section 2.4.2: State Agency Comments and Responses
 - Section 2.4.3: Local Agency Comments and Responses
- Section 2.5: Organization Comments and Responses
- Section 2.6: Individual Comments and Responses
- Section 3.0: Errata to the Draft EIR:
 - Section 3.1: Introduction
 - Section 3.2: Errata: This section summarizes the proposed revisions to the Draft EIR intended to clarify, correct, or make insignificant modifications.
- Section 4.0: Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP)

Additionally, the Final EIR includes the following appendices:

- Appendix 3.0-1: Emissions Errata
- Appendix 3.0-2: Thrasher Errata

This Final EIR will allow the public and Lead Agency an opportunity to review the Draft EIR and Draft EIR revisions, if any, the comments and responses, and other EIR components, such as the MMRP before Project approval. This Final EIR will serve as the environmental document to support a decision on the proposed Project.

Additionally, the following expert reports have been included in the administrative record to substantiate discussions included in the Draft EIR and are available on the City website:

- *Zero Emission Trucks Feasibility Evaluation for Barstow International Gateway (ZE Truck Feasibility Report)*, Kimley-Horn, et al. dated April 24, 2026.
- *A Power Plan for the Barstow International Gateway (Power Budget Memorandum)*, Burns & McDonnell, dated March 2026.
- *Feasibility of Electric Rubber Tire Gantry (RTG) Canes Technical Memorandum (eRTG Feasibility Memorandum)*, Prepared by Rod Haney (Managing Member of Transport Equipment Consulting, LLC), dated March 2026.
- *Feasibility Analysis of New Propulsion Locomotive Technologies and Overhead Catenary for the BIG Project (BEL and Catenary Feasibility Analysis)*, Prepared by Michael E. Iden. P.E., dated March 2026.
- *Operational and Economic Feasibility for BEL Switchers and Linehails (BEL Economic Feasibility Memorandum)*, Burns & McDonnell, et al., dated March 13, 2026.
- *Operational Feasibility of Power Swapping BEL Linehaul Locomotives at BIG and Other Operational Challenges for BEL Switchers (Power Swapping Memorandum)*, by Travis Thowe (BNSF Director of

Network Strategy) and Mike Swaney (BNSF Director of Advanced Energy Innovation), dated February 27, 2026.

- *Analysis of BELs: San Pedro Bay Ports to Barstow (Benchmark Report)*, prepared by Garrett Anderson, Benchmark Data and Control, dated March 2026.
- *BIG's Viability Due to Suggested Zero-Emission Mitigation Measures (Zero-Emission Impacts on BIG Viability)*, prepared by Brad Womack (BNSF), dated April 2026.
- *Capacity at BNSF Los Angeles Hobart and San Bernardino (BNSF Hobart and San Bernardino Railyard Capacity Memorandum)*, prepared by Ryan Sickler, dated March 9, 2026.
- *BNSF Barstow International Gateway Corridor Emissions Model Analysis Errata (CEM Errata)*, prepared by Michael Choi, dated February 2026.
- *Regional Air Quality Modeling and Health Impact Analysis for the Barstow International Gateway (HIA Report)* (BlueScape), dated April 2026.
- *Analysis of At-Grade Crossing Delay for BIG (At-Grade Crossing Evaluation)* (Kimley-Horn), dated April, 2026.
- *Barstow International Gateway (BIG) – Caltrans Traffic Safety Review ("Supplemental Traffic Safety Review")* (Kimley-Horn), dated February, 2026.
- *Market Benefits of the Barstow International Gateway (Market Benefits Report)*, prepared by Bradley Womack, et al., dated November 2025.

Pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines § 15090, prior to approving a project, the Lead Agency must certify that the Final EIR:

1. Has been completed in compliance with CEQA;
2. Was presented to the decision-making body of the Lead Agency, and that the decision-making body reviewed and considered the information in the Final EIR prior to approving the Project; and
3. Reflects the Lead Agency's independent judgment and analysis.

These certification findings are included in a separate Findings document. Both the Final EIR and the Findings will be submitted to the Lead Agency/City for consideration of the proposed Project.