

Starting instead from Merced at 5:38 a.m. would have a northbound pulling into Oakland at 8 a.m. and not long after in Sacramento. People catching a 5:38 a.m. train in Merced heading south could reach Fresno an hour later and Bakersfield by 8 a.m.

The San Joaquins also stop in Denair, Stockton and other depots, with two round trips linking Sacramento and Bakersfield and four between Oakland and Bakersfield, for a total of six round trips each day. The California Department of Transportation's rail administration, which technically still oversees the San Joaquins, expects to bump to seven round trips next year. That will be the line's first addition since 2002.

[Editorial: Central Valley's dire dirty air distinction](#)

Sacramento Bee-May 1, 2014

There's no shortage of ideas on how to spend California's anticipated "cap and trade" billions. But two recent reports lay out a compelling case for where a serious dose of that money, from the state's program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, needs to go.

Last week, in an eye-opening map of communities most wracked by pollution, the California Environmental Protection Agency left no doubt that the Central Valley is by far the state's biggest and most vulnerable environmental challenge.

[Southern California Air Still Among Most Polluted -](#)

Westside Today-Apr 30, 2014

The American Lung Association's "State of the Air 2014" report says the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Riverside region has the worst ozone pollution problem in the nation, even though Southern California as a whole has seen a sharp improvement in battling ozone over the past 14 years.



Map of LA Union Station for its 75th anniversary festivities. Photo by Noel T. Braymer

[Derailed CSX train carried Bakken oil; over 800 barrels spilled](#)

Reuters - May 1, 2014

(Reuters) - The CSX Corp train that derailed and erupted in flames in Lynchburg, Virginia, was carrying crude from the Bakken shale in North Dakota, the kind of oil involved in several other fiery derailments, the railroad said on Thursday.

[California refiners double volume of oil imported by rail](#)

SFGate-May 3, 2014

California, country's biggest gasoline market, more than doubled the volume of oil it received by train in the first quarter as deliveries from Canada surged.

[DOT offers legislative proposal — But some lawmakers shrug it off](#)

Politico-Apr 30, 2014

The ball is in Congress's court. After five years of asking for leadership from the administration on transportation, lawmakers got what they wanted — a concrete legislative proposal from the Department of Transportation. The GROW AMERICA Act is the first ever comprehensive road and transit bill proposal from President Barack Obama's administration....

WHAT'S IN IT? Tracking the already-announced plan for a \$302 billion, four-year bill, the proposal includes \$199 billion for highways and road safety and \$72 billion for transit and to "expand transportation options." That comes out to a 22 percent hike for road funding and a 70 percent boost on the transit side. Other pots of money include \$19 billion dedicated to rail, a \$10 billion multi-modal freight program, \$5 billion for the TIGER grant program and \$4 billion for TIFIA.

[2 high-speed train sets built for Wisconsin set to leave Milwaukee](#)

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel-May 1, 2014

In what appears to be the final chapter of an ill-fated venture in Milwaukee, Spanish train-maker Talgo is vacating its factory on the city's north side, and its two unused high-speed train sets may soon take to the tracks.

[Why "Blending" High Speed and Conventional Rail is Important](#)

By Noel T. Braymer

It's expensive to build a new railroad. Even improvements to existing railroads aren't cheap. Plus there are few places to build railroads today at any price, particularly in cities. As it is funding is always tight for any form of transportation construction. This is why it is often better to share rail rights of ways and infrastructure than trying to bulldoze your way through with all new construction.

[High-speed train to link Istanbul to Turkish capital](#)

www.worldbulletin.net-May 1, 2014

"Hopefully, the high-speed train service will start in the second half of May between Ankara and Istanbul. We will both inaugurate the service and begin train services."

It is expected that the travel time from Ankara to Istanbul will be shortened to 3.5 hours via the high-speed train.

There are currently three high-speed rail lines between Ankara, Konya and Eskisehir cities.

[Environmental assessment on high-speed rail between London and Toronto to start this year](#)

London Free Press-Apr 30, 2014

It is expected travel time on the system would be about half an hour to Kitchener-Waterloo and more than one hour from Toronto to London.

The high speed rail project will fall under the province's Moving Ontario Forward transit and infrastructure plan which commits the government to spending \$29 billion over 10 years on roads, bridges, highways and public transit.

[High-speed rail](#)

The Economist-May 1, 2014

ON APRIL 28th high-speed rail boosters breathed a sigh of relief. The second reading of a bill establishing HS2, a proposed railway between London, Birmingham and Manchester, cleared the House of Commons by 452 votes to 41. But they may yet find themselves sighing for different reasons. Despite its easy passage this week, the bill will not become an act of Parliament before the 2015 general election.

What is interesting about this development is this project HS2: has had at least as much hysterical opposition as High Speed Rail in California. Except for the locations the attacks against it are almost the same as the attacks here. NB

[Going vertical: Hyper speed trains up the side of buildings could ...](#)

WPTV-May 2, 2014

Towering above the crowded streets of future metropolises, these giant buildings are designed to minimize the large slices of real estate that major railway terminals occupy by flipping them on their side. The goal, designers Christopher Christophi and Lucas Mazarrasa say, is to free up valuable space in the densely-packed cities of tomorrow, which will be significantly challenged by overcrowding and a sharp drop in public space availability.

2 questions come to mind. One, how are they going to get the trains to stay on the tracks when vertical? The other is how will passengers get on and off a train hanging upside down.? NB

[Yolo rail company wins \\$39.6 million in court fight with rival](#)

Modesto Bee-May 1, 2014

For more than five years, Sierra Railroad Co. of Yolo County and Patriot Rail Corp. of Florida have been at each other's throats in Sacramento federal court over a rail services contract at McClellan Business Park in North Highlands....

Privately held Sierra operates hauling, switching, and car storage on approximately 80 miles of track in several California industrial areas. It also operates a number of tourist trains, including the Sacramento River Train that rolls between Sacramento and Woodland, a three-hour excursion that combines food, entertainment and scenery. Another of its holdings is the Skunk Train on California's North Coast, with a route that crisscrosses the Noyo River, winds through coastal mountains and drops down through towering redwood forests. **Article no longer on website. NB**

[Dispute could shut down Ventura County railway used in film shoots](#)

Los Angeles Times-Apr 30, 2014

Fillmore & Western Railway Co. may be forced to shut down as a result of a legal dispute with the Ventura County Transportation Commission, which recently filed a lawsuit to evict the company. The Fillmore-based company, which owns 50 freight, passenger and commuter cars and 10 locomotives dating to the 1880s, calls itself Home of the Movie Trains.

[Gold Line to Ontario Airport off track; bill withdrawn by author](#)

San Gabriel Valley Tribune-Apr 28, 2014

A squabble between Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties may have put an end to the extension of the Gold Line light-rail to Ontario International Airport.

[Soaring home prices spur a resurgence near USC](#)

Los Angeles Times- Apr 30, 2014