

# High-speed rail design advances

- By KATHLEEN RONAYNE Associated Press



This December 2017 photo shows an elevated section of the high-speed rail under construction in Fresno. The California High-Speed Rail Authority's board of directors on Tuesday approved releasing a request for qualified bidders for a \$1.6 billion contract to design and construct the trains and systems that would cover a 119-mile segment of the high-speed rail project in the Central Valley.

Associated Press

**SACRAMENTO** — California officials on Tuesday moved toward awarding a \$1.65 billion contract to design and construct the tracks and system for the first segment of its beleaguered high-speed

rail project.

The action taken by the California High-Speed Rail Authority's board of directors was a first step in moving ahead with a contract they hope to award by next summer. It's part of the authorities plan to get track up

and running in the state's Central Valley ahead of a 2022 deadline to meet the requirements of federal grants the Trump administration is now trying to take back.

U.S. and international businesses can apply for the contract, and whoever wins it would be responsible for designing and building rail infrastructure along 119 miles in the Central Valley as well as maintaining it for a period that could be as long as 30 years. A U.S. subsidiary of German rail giant Deutsche Bahn AG has already been awarded a \$30 million contract for early operation of the trains.

The \$1.65 billion is just a sliver of the \$79 billion it's estimated to cost to build a high-speed rail line between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

The contractor would design and build all of the necessary infrastructure, including track and systems, signal systems, automatic and positive train control, platforms and overhead electrification systems and voltage stations. The state has already launched construction in the Central Valley on civil work such as building new viaducts and separating roadways from areas for track necessary to prepare for the full high-speed rail system.

California's rail authority is first trying to finish track between the Central Valley and San Francisco before turning toward Los Angeles."