

For Immediate Release

Meyers Nave is Lead Counsel for BNSF Railway Company's Barstow International Gateway (BIG) Project, Obtaining Barstow City Council Approval and First-of-its-Kind SB 149 Transportation Infrastructure Project Certification

Gubernatorial designation and City Council approval position \$4 billion freight rail facility for expedited CEQA review and long-term supply chain resilience

OAKLAND, California – June 22, 2026 – Meyers Nave announced today that the firm serves as lead counsel to BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) on the Barstow International Gateway (BIG) project, having supported the effort from project design and development through key milestones and continuing through environmental review and construction of the \$4 billion, 4,500-acre integrated rail facility scheduled to break ground later this year in Barstow, California.

On June 16, the Barstow City Council approved the project — a landmark milestone for what BNSF has described as one of the most significant freight infrastructure investments in California history.

The BIG project has also received gubernatorial certification as a transportation-related infrastructure project under Senate Bill 149 (SB 149). [As BNSF noted in announcing the City Council's approval](#), it is the first transportation-related project "and one of only 10 local or regional transportation projects statewide to earn the designation." As found by California's Governor in certifying BIG under that statute, BIG represents a \$4 billion private investment in California, will help reduce congestion in Port-adjacent communities, improves supply chain reliability, and supports the transition to a zero-emission freight system.

For certified projects, any California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) litigation challenging the environmental impact report or project approvals, including appeals, must be resolved within 270 days, providing critical scheduling certainty for a project of this scale and complexity.

"The Barstow International Gateway represents a fundamental shift in California freight infrastructure: moving goods from truck-dependent, port-adjacent congestion to a rail-centered, inland logistics model. For BNSF Railway Company, SB 149 certification brings meaningful schedule certainty to one of the most consequential freight infrastructure projects in the state. For California, the project reflects a new model for moving goods with greater efficiency, fewer truck trips, and stronger long-term supply chain resilience."

— *Amrit Kulkarni, Principal & Chair, Land Use, Environmental Law, and
Transportation & Infrastructure Practice Group, Meyers Nave*

The Meyers Nave team is led by **Amrit Kulkarni** and supported by multiple attorneys across the firm's Land Use, Environmental, and Litigation practice groups.

The BIG project is designed to streamline goods movement between the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, and destinations across the United States. Containers arriving at the ports

will move directly onto trains via the Alameda Corridor and along the BNSF mainline to Barstow, where freight will be processed using zero-emission cargo-handling equipment and routed across BNSF's national network. The project is expected to eliminate approximately 205 million truck miles traveled in 2028, growing to 312 million truck miles traveled by 2048, significantly reducing highway congestion and emissions across Southern California. Because of BIG's innovative design, BIG will result in a net decrease in greenhouse gas emissions, one of the requirements for obtaining certification under SB 149.

The economic impact will be transformative. BNSF projects that the BIG project will generate approximately 62,000 construction-related jobs and 15,000 long-term operational jobs. Within the City of Barstow, over its first 20 years of operation, the project is expected to produce approximately 5,400 new direct jobs, \$938 million in total earnings, and \$2.9 billion in total economic output.

The BIG project reflects Meyers Nave's deep bench in California infrastructure, land use, and environmental law. The firm has advised government agencies, transportation providers, developers, and private entities on many of California's most visible and complex infrastructure and development matters.

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About Meyers Nave

Meyers Nave is a California law firm that provides regulatory, transaction and litigation counsel to businesses, government entities, non-profit organizations, and government-private partnerships. The firm is known for its work on complex, high-profile matters across California, including land use, environmental law, transportation, infrastructure, municipal law, labor and employment, trial and appellate litigation.

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