

When the record exists, but the current decision position does not.

A forwardable two-page brief for one defined decision or reliance point.

WHAT RGRA DOES

RGRA conducts a fixed-scope Decision-Basis Review for one defined decision or reliance point. It reviews an agreed record set at a stated cut-off and issues a source-linked File-Position Note stating the narrowest position the record supports, the qualifications that remain attached, what has changed or been superseded, what remains unresolved and where additional evidence or authorised judgement begins.

WHEN THIS BECOMES A DECISION PROBLEM

Observable conditions

- A headline approval, completion or readiness status is broader than its source record.
- Several current-looking versions circulate across different teams or reporting layers.
- Later evidence is being used to describe what could be supported at an earlier cut-off.
- A qualification disappears as the position moves into a summary, dashboard or executive pack.
- Senior teams must rebuild the factual starting position before they can apply their judgement.

What changes in practice

- Senior time is spent reconstructing rather than deciding.
- Conditions detach from the headline they qualify.
- Different functions start from different “current” positions.
- The first unsupported step becomes difficult to see.
- Later reliance depends on explanation instead of the record itself.

HOW THE REVIEW WORKS

1. Fix the decision or reliance question, cut-off, audience, intended use and agreed core record set.
2. Identify source identity, authority, status, version path and relationship to later records.
3. Separate supported, qualified, superseded, derivative and contrary positions.
4. Locate the first step the agreed record no longer supports.
5. State the narrowest supportable position—or state that no single position is supportable.

The File-Position Note states

- The question, cut-off, record boundary and permitted use.
- The source-linked position supported by the agreed record.
- Qualifications, contrary material and unresolved points.
- What is current, narrowed, changed or expressly superseded.
- The exact limit of support and where further evidence or authorised judgement begins.

WHERE THE REVIEW STOPS — AND WHY

Legal, technical, commercial, assurance, operational and expert judgements remain with the functions authorised to make them. RGRA stops before those judgements and provides the controlled written basis from which they may proceed.

NO-DUPLICATION GATE

RGRA is commissioned only where the required source-supported position is not already expressly owned, produced and appropriately reviewed for the same decision, cut-off, audience and intended use.

FORMAT Written-first	SCOPE One defined question	RECORDS Typically up to 20 core records	COMMERCIAL Fixed scope and fee	TARGET 7–10 business days*
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A PRACTICAL FIRST STEP

The internal first question is whether an accountable function already leaves this position for the same decision and use. If not, request a non-sensitive written fit check. No live confidential records are needed at that stage.
 *Target begins only after written scope acceptance, material acceptance and confirmation that the agreed review route is operational.

Approval is not execution

A public-record Decision-Basis demonstration using official California High-Speed Rail records.

THE QUESTION

At the close of the California High-Speed Rail Authority Board meeting on 29 April 2026, what did the agreed public record establish about Change Order 427 for Construction Package 2-3—and what did it not establish?

Cut-off: Close of the 29 April 2026 Board meeting.

AGREED PUBLIC-RECORD SET

- Official 29 April 2026 Board agenda and Agenda Item 7 memorandum.
- Final Board Resolution HSR #26-06.
- Later-issued minutes/transcript used only to evidence the 29 April event and vote.
- Official Board meeting and resolution registers for routing and identifier control.

OUTSIDE THE AGREED SET

- Executed change order and complete operative terms.
- Implementation or payment evidence.
- Legal, contractual, delay, quantum or entitlement analysis.

BOUNDED POSITION

The official public record supports that the Board approved Change Order 427 and authorised the CEO or designee to execute it for the stated amount. At the cut-off, that agreed record did not establish that execution had already occurred and did not contain the executed instrument or complete operative terms.

SUPPORTED BY THE AGREED RECORD	NOT ESTABLISHED BY THAT RECORD AT THE CUT-OFF
Board approval of the change order.	Completed execution merely because execution was authorised.
Authority for the CEO or designee to execute.	The complete signed terms, implementation, payment or full contractual effect.
The public vote and adopted resolution.	Legal validity, entitlement, claim merit, release scope, delay, quantum or enforceability.

FIRST UNSUPPORTED STEP

The move from authority to execute to a statement that execution had occurred.

Illustrative File-Position wording: At 29 April 2026, the agreed public record established approval and delegated authority to execute Change Order 427. It did not establish completed execution. Execution status was therefore not determinable from the agreed public set at that cut-off.

WHAT THE EXAMPLE DEMONSTRATES

- Approval, authority and completed execution are separate record states.
- Absence of the executed instrument supports non-determinability—not a claim that execution never occurred.
- Later evidence must not be backdated into an earlier cut-off.
- Qualifications and source inconsistencies remain attached to the position.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

- That the Authority or contractor acted improperly.
- That execution did not occur outside the agreed set or after the cut-off.
- A legal, contractual, claims, delay, quantum or assurance conclusion.
- Client outcome evidence; this is a public-record method demonstration.

OFFICIAL SOURCES

[29 April 2026 final Board agenda](#)
[Agenda Item 7 - CP 2-3 Board memorandum](#)
[Agenda Item 7 - final resolution PDF](#)
[Board schedule and meeting materials](#)
[Board resolutions register](#)

Official sources are hyperlinked in the digital PDF.

SOURCE-CONTROL QUALIFICATION The official schedule identifies the final resolution as HSR 26-06, while the linked resolution PDF displays HSRA 26-02. The Board memorandum is framed around Change Order 427 but contains one reference to CO 437. RGRA preserves these identifier inconsistencies rather than silently normalising them.