

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
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*Making Conservation  
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11/16/2020

**Governor's Office of Planning & Research**

**Oct 28 2020**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

October 28, 2020

Brian Balderrama  
LA County Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
One Gateway Plaza, Mail Stop 99-17-2  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Antelope Valley Line Capacity and Service  
Improvement Program – Notice of  
Preparation (NOP)  
SCH# 2020109001  
GTS# 07-LA-2020-03385  
Vic. LA-5 PM R44.907

Dear Brian Balderrama:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. The Proposed Project would increase Metrolink service along the Antelope Valley Line to 30-minute bi-directional headways between Los Angeles Union Station and Santa Clarita Valley and up to 60-minute bi-directional headways to Lancaster Terminal by the year 2030. To achieve this service improvement, the Proposed Project includes the following three capital improvements: (1) the Balboa double track extension in unincorporated Los Angeles County which would extend the existing double track approximately 6,300 feet north from Balboa Boulevard to Sierra Highway; (2) the Canyon to Santa Clarita double track extension in Santa Clarita which would add approximately 8,400 feet of new double track between Soledad Canyon Road to Golden Oak Road; and (3) the Lancaster terminal improvements which would include expansion of the existing yard in Lancaster with two new 1,000-foot long train storage tracks, and a second station platform at the Lancaster station. In addition, two options consisting of a turnback facility at the Canyon to Santa Clarita double track and maintaining the station platform will also be addressed in the Draft EIR.

The nearest State facility to the proposed project is Interstate 5. After reviewing the MND, Caltrans does not expect project approval to result in a direct adverse impact to the existing State transportation facilities. However, the Balboa Double Track Extension project location is immediately adjacent to Interstate 5, so an encroachment permit will be required for any project work proposed on or in the vicinity of the Caltrans right-of-way and all environmental concerns must be adequately addressed. Please note that any modifications to the State facility will be subject to additional review by the Office of Permits prior to issuance of the permit.

Brian Balderrama  
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If you have any questions, please contact project coordinator Anthony Higgins, at [anthony.higgins@dot.ca.gov](mailto:anthony.higgins@dot.ca.gov) and refer to GTS# 07-LA-2020-03385.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Miya Edmonson".

MIYA EDMONSON

IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse