

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
County Clerk
County of: Los Angeles
Address: 12400 Imperial Hwy.
Norwalk CA 90650

From: Public Agency: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Address: One Gateway Plaza, Mailstop 99-17-2
Los Angeles CA, 90012
Contact: Brian Balderrama
Phone: (213) 922-2836
Lead Agency (if different from above): _____

Project Title: Antelope Valley Line Capacity and Service Improvements Program

Project Applicant: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Project Location – Specific:

Antelope Valley Line from City of Los Angeles to City of Lancaster

Project Location – City: Los Angeles to Lancaster Project Location – County: Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Antelope Valley Line (AVL) plays a critical role in connecting communities in North Los Angeles County to Los Angeles Union Station and the cities in between. Prior to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, it carried the third highest ridership in Metrolink's commuter rail system and was responsible for removing approximately one million weekday automobile trips from the region's roadways a year. Consistent with the State Rail Plan and Metrolink's Southern California Optimized Rail Expansion (SCORE) program, and in anticipation of substantial population and employment growth in the North Los Angeles County region over the next 20 years, Metro seeks to improve rail service on the AVL to realize its full potential as a regional mobility enhancement and not just a peak-hour commuter service. Accordingly, the AVL Capacity and Service Improvements Program seeks to:

- Provide regular and more frequent Metrolink services to improve regional connectivity and accessibility through the enabling of 30-minute bi-directional passenger rail service to the Santa Clarita Valley and 60-minute bi-directional service to Lancaster along the AVL corridor.
- Improve passenger service reliability and efficiency on the AVL rail corridor.
- Provide necessary infrastructure improvements to enhance operational flexibility and reliability along the AVL corridor.
- Support the vision and goals for rail service in the region consistent with the California State Rail 2040 Plan and Metrolink's SCORE program.

The Proposed Project involves the construction of three capital improvements which would provide the capacity required to allow Metrolink commuter rail service to increase frequency along the AVL to 30-minute bi-directional headways between Los Angeles Union Station and the Santa Clarita Valley and up to 60-minute bi-directional headways between the Santa Clarita Valley and the Lancaster Terminal by the year 2028. The three capital improvements include the following: the Balboa Double Track Extension would extend the existing double track approximately 6,300 feet north from Balboa Boulevard to Sierra Highway in the City of Los Angeles; the Canyon Siding Extension would add approximately 8,400 feet of new double track between Soledad Canyon Road to Golden Oak Road and also provide a second station platform at the existing Santa Clarita Metrolink Station in the City of Santa Clarita; and the Lancaster Terminal Improvements would include expansion of the existing train layover facilities by adding one new 1,000-foot-long and two 500-foot-long train storage tracks in the vicinity of the existing Lancaster Terminal Metrolink Station in the City of Lancaster. The Canyon Siding Extension includes two design options for the Santa Clarita Station platform including the Platform to Platform Pedestrian Undercrossing Design Option and the Island Platform with Platform to Parking Lot Pedestrian Undercrossing Design Option. The Lancaster Terminal Improvements includes three design options for the Lancaster Terminal Station platform including the Island Platform with Pedestrian Undercrossing Design Option, the Island Platform with Pedestrian Overcrossing Design Option, and the Island Platform with Pedestrian At-Grade Crossing Design Option.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project Southern California Regional Rail Authority

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LOS ANGELES, COUNTY CLERK

Exempt Status: (check one):

Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);

Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));

Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));

Categorical Exemption. State type and section number.

Statutory Exemption: Public Resources Code section 21080, subdivisions (b)(10) and CEQA Guidelines section 15275, subdivision (b) (14 Cal. Code Regs., § 15000 et seq.)

Reasons why project is exempt:

The Proposed Project is a project for the institution or increase of passenger and commuter services on rail already in use, including the modernization of existing stations.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Brian Balderrama Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (213) 922-2836

Signature:  Date: 12/2/2021 Title: Deputy Executive Officer

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority Cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.