

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF PREPARATION
AND
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

As the lead agency, the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Report and hold a public scoping meeting for the following project:

Project Number and Title: Simi Valley Double Track Project

Project Applicant: Southern California Regional Rail Authority

Scoping Meeting: A virtual public scoping meeting will be held for this project on Thursday, November 18, 2020, at 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Refer to Metrolink's project website for more information on accessing the meeting at metrolinktrains.com/score/simivalley. A presentation of materials will be made at the scoping meeting that will include a description of the project and the purpose of the scoping meeting.

Project Address/Location: The Simi Valley Double Track Project (Project) is located on a 2.2-mile segment of the SCRRA's (SCRRA or Metrolink) existing Ventura Subdivision, which supports Metrolink's Ventura County Line (VCL). The Project alignment is located within SCRRA's existing railroad right-of-way (ROW) and begins at its western terminus at Sequoia Avenue and ends south of Stearns Street at the Arroyo Simi Railroad Bridge, within the City of Simi Valley, California (Figure 1). The Project is located between Mile Post (MP) 436.20 and MP 438.40 (Figure 2) and intersects Sequoia Avenue, Tapo Canyon Street, Tapo Street, East Los Angeles Avenue, and Hidden Ranch Drive through central portions of Simi Valley, north of the Arroyo Simi Greenway.

Project Description: The proposed Project involves construction of a new, second platform (south of the existing platform) and pedestrian undercrossing at the existing Simi Valley Station, the construction of a second siding track along a 2.20-mile stretch of Metrolink's existing VCL from MP 436.20 to MP 438.40, and the establishment of two new control points (CP) at MP 436.30 (CP Sequoia) and MP 438.40 (CP Arroyo). Additionally, the Project improvements would include supplemental safety measures and signal improvements at existing at-grade crossings at Sequoia Avenue, Tapo Canyon Street, Tapo Street, East Los Angeles Avenue, and Hidden Ranch Drive, which would support the placement of a second track and future applications to the California Public Utilities Commission and Federal Railroad Administration, including for quiet zone status for one or more at-grade crossings along the alignment.

Under the proposed Project, multiple improvements to the existing Simi Valley Station, including construction of a second platform and a supporting pedestrian underpass (or crossing) to enhance passenger safety, would be accomplished. The internal dimensions of the proposed underpass would be 14.0 feet wide by 10.5 feet high, prior to the installation of the floor and aesthetic treatments. The existing platform would also be reconfigured to remove the curvature within the platform to the south side of the main line tracks. In conjunction with these station improvements, SCRRA would implement crime prevention through environmental design principles, which would include natural surveillance, natural access control, territorial reinforcement, and routine maintenance.

Multiple above and underground utilities and drainage facilities within the railroad corridor would be relocated, extended, and/or protected in place as part of the Project. Potholing would be implemented in conjunction with final design to verify the locations of all existing utilities within the Project study area and to determine which utilities would be protected in place and which utilities would require relocation or abandonment.

Project construction is expected to begin in 2023 and would last for approximately 19 months. The work would be accomplished over three phases: beginning with construction of the pedestrian underpass and new platform at the station and ending with reconstruction of 250 feet of the existing station platform. Most proposed improvements (including the proposed pedestrian undercrossing at the Simi Valley Station) would be constructed within the railroad ROW, south of the existing track centerline. Roadway and sidewalk improvements may extend beyond the railroad ROW and into adjacent property or roadway ROW.

Once constructed, the proposed Project would improve safety at the Simi Valley Station and provide increased operational capacity on Metrolink's VCL. With the Project's implementation along other near term

projects along the VCL corridor, Metrolink service capacity would increase during peak commute hours, including 30-minute b-directional service, thereby providing up to 48 revenue trains per day throughout the VCL.

Reviewing Agencies and Potential Approvals Required: The following agencies may have jurisdiction/interests concerning the proposed Project:

Regional, State and Federal:

- Federal Railroad Administration
- Federal Communications Commission
- Federal Transit Administration, Region 9
- California Public Utilities Commission
- California State Transportation Agency
- California Department of Transportation
- Regional Water Quality Control Board

Local:

- City of Simi Valley
- County of Ventura
- Ventura County Transportation Commission
- Ventura County

Potential Environmental Effects (to be considered): Aesthetics, Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology/Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards & Hazardous Materials, Hydrology/Water Quality, Land Use/Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise and Vibration, Population/Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, Utilities/Service Systems, Wildfire, and Mandatory Findings of Significance.

An Initial Study was not prepared for this Project.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 21080.4(a) and Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, responsible and trustee agencies and members of the public are asked to provide written comments regarding the scope and content of the Environmental Impact Report. Therefore, we need to know your views, or the views of your organization, regarding the effect this Project might have on the environment and your suggestions for ways the Project could be revised to reduce or avoid any significant environmental impacts. Your comments will help us decide what issues to analyze in the environmental review of this Project.

Due to the time limits mandated by state law, your response must be sent as soon as possible but not later than 30 days after the date of publication of this notice. Your comments may be submitted in writing to Chris Haskell, 900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1500, Los Angeles, CA 90017, or via e-mail to HaskellC@scrra.net no later than December 2, 2020, 30 days from publish date. Please include in your response the name, email address, phone number, and mailing address of the contact person and reference the "Simi Valley Double Track and Platform Project."

Public Comment Period: November 6, 2020 to December 18, 2020

Publish Date: November 6, 2020

Figure 2. Project Location



- Project Footprint
- City Boundary
- Study Area
- Mile Post
- Existing Rail
- Metrolink Station

