



March 18, 2021  
Governor's Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Simi Valley Double Track Project: Draft Environmental Impact Report**

### **Project Description**

The Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) is proposing the Simi Valley Double Track Project (Project) to improve safety at the Simi Valley Station and to increase operational capacity on Metrolink's Ventura County Line. SCRRA has prepared a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Project to support public and stakeholder review of the Project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The Project includes at-grade crossing improvements and the construction of new rail infrastructure. The Project would occur primarily within existing railroad ROW owned by Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) and Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) from Sequoia Avenue east to the Arroyo Simi Railroad Bridge just south of Stearns Street in the City of Simi Valley, California. The Project would add 2.20 miles of second main track and increase the passenger capacity at the Simi Valley Station by adding an additional platform and pedestrian undercrossing. In addition, an existing signal at Sycamore Drive would be relocated, and a new signal would be installed approximately 2,000 feet west of Erringer Road. The objectives of the Project are to improve safety by adding pedestrian safety features and improve reliability by allowing more efficient train operations; allow for an hourly bidirectional service, a half-hourly regional train to dispatch in the peak direction, and an hourly express train in the peak direction along Metrolink's VCL, which operates on the Ventura Subdivision between Moorpark and Los Angeles Union Station; and include at-grade crossing improvements at Sequoia Avenue, Tapo Canyon Road, Tapo Street, East Los Angeles Avenue, and Hidden Ranch Drive in support of the city's future application with FRA for quiet zone status along the alignment.

### **Potentially Significant Impacts**

Section 15087(c)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines require that the NOA disclose any potentially significant environmental impacts as a result of the Project. The draft EIR for the Project identified potentially significant nighttime construction noise impacts to several adjacent residences. For more information, refer to Section 3.11, Noise and Vibration, of the draft EIR.

### **Hazardous Materials Sites**

Section 15087(c)(6) of the CEQA Guidelines require that the NOA disclose the presence of the site on any of the lists of sites enumerated under Government Code Section 65962.5 including, but not limited to, lists of hazardous waste facilities, land designated as hazardous waste property, hazardous waste disposal sites and others, and the information in the Hazardous Waste and Substances Statement

required under subdivision (f) of that Section.

While the Project alignment is located within 0.50 mile of 524 hazardous materials regulatory listings, no regulatory listings were noted in the EDR report as representing a potential concern to the Project footprint. For more information, refer to Section 3.8, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, of the draft EIR.

### **Notice of Availability**

This Draft EIR is being distributed to interested agencies, stakeholder organizations, and individuals for review and comment. This distribution starts a 45-day comment period where interested parties have an opportunity to express their views regarding the environmental impacts of the Project and public agencies may offer information pertinent to potential Project permits, authorizations, and approvals and inform SCRRA of their CEQA-responsible and trustee agency role for the Project. The document is available for review by the public on SCRRA's website (<https://metrolinktrains.com/about/agency/score/simi-valley-project/>).

The document is also available for in-person review by the public and at the following locations during normal business, or hours posted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- SCRRA headquarters, located at 900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1500, Los Angeles, California 90017;
- The City of Simi Valley Clerk's Office, located at 2929 Tapo Canyon Road, Simi Valley, California 93063;
- The Simi Valley Public Library, located at 2969 Tapo Canyon Road, Simi Valley, California 93063; and,
- The County of Ventura Clerk Recorder, located at Hall of Administration, Main Plaza, 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, California 93009-1260.

This Draft EIR is being distributed for a 45-day period that will begin on March 18, 2021, and end on May 3, 2021. Written comments should be sent to the following address:

Chris Haskell, Project Manager  
Southern California Regional Rail Authority  
900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1500, Los Angeles, California 90017  
213.452.0242

Comments may be provided via online comment form at: <https://metrolinktrains.com/about/agency/score/simi-valley-project/> or via email. Please include the Project title in the subject line, attach comments in Microsoft Word format, and include the commenter's U.S. Postal Service mailing address. Written/email comments should be directed to [communityrelations@scrra.net](mailto:communityrelations@scrra.net). All public comments must be received by 5:00 p.m., May 3, 2021, to facilitate incorporation into the Final EIR.

Once all comments have been assembled and reviewed, SCRRA will prepare responses to address significant environmental issues that have been raised in the comments. The responses will be included in the Final EIR.