



February 28, 2022

To: Public Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

From: Orange County Transportation Authority

Subject: **Notice of Public Review and Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration**

Pursuant to the *State of California Public Resources Code* and the *Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act*, as most recently amended, this notice is issued to advise that the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) has prepared a Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) to evaluate the environmental effects of the Metrolink Orange County Maintenance Facility Project (Project). The Project will provide locomotive and railcar servicing and storage facilities for Metrolink's Orange County Line trains in order to improve Metrolink's operational efficiency and overall system performance.

This Initial Study was completed in accordance with OCTA's Guidelines for Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The document relies on site-specific analysis prepared to address in detail the environmental impacts associated with the Project. On the basis of the Initial Study, OCTA staff has concluded that the Project will not have a significant effect on the environment with the implementation of best management practices and mitigation measures. Consequently, a Mitigated Negative Declaration is proposed.

The Project site is not listed on any lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code.

**Project Location:** The proposed location for the Project lies in the City of Irvine (City). The main Project Footprint is located on a 21.3-acre OCTA-owned parcel in the City, adjacent to Marine Way and OCTA Metrolink Railroad, between mileposts (MP) 183.50 and 184.00. This location is within a closed military base (Marine Corps Air Station [MCAS] El Toro) formerly owned by the United States Department of the Navy (DON). After MCAS El Toro was closed, the site was quitclaimed by the Navy to Heritage Fields El Toro, LLC in 2011, and then by way of grant deed conveyed by Heritage Fields to the City that same year. OCTA then purchased the fee ownership of the Project Site from the City. Regional vehicle access to the Project Site is from I-5 at Sand Canyon Avenue. Local vehicle access is via Marine Way to Ridge Valley. Construction for the Project will also occur within the existing Metrolink railroad corridor between MP 183.30 and MP 184.50.

Project Description: The Project includes the construction of a new rail yard, a new rail bridge over the Bee Canyon Channel adjacent to an existing single-span rail bridge, lead tracks and yard tracks, storage, operations and maintenance buildings, train wash, ancillary structures, landscape improvements, street and traffic signal improvements, and safety and security features. Funding is currently not available to construct the entire facility at one time. Instead, a phase construction approach is proposed to build the initial portion of the facility including the most immediately needed elements. The addition of the remaining components will be advanced as the need arises and when funding becomes available.

Public Review Period: A 30-day public review period will begin on February 28, 2022. Comments can be submitted via email ([ocmf@octa.net](mailto:ocmf@octa.net)) or mailed to Lora Cross, Project Manager, Orange County Transportation Authority, 550 S. Main Street Orange, CA 92868. Comments must be submitted by no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 29, 2022. The Draft IS/MND and reference documents are also available for review with a link to comment on the Project webpage ([www.octa.net/ocmf](http://www.octa.net/ocmf)) and for review physically at the OCTA headquarters at 550 S. Main Street in the City of Orange.

For additional information regarding this Project, please contact:

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