



August 1, 2024

Ms. Veronica Li
United States Army Corps of Engineers
Los Angeles District
915 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 930
Los Angeles, CA 90017

**Subject: Permitting Submittal Package for the Critical San Clemente Railroad
Protection Project – Area 4 (Mile Post 206.00 to Mile Post 206.67)**

Dear Ms. Li:

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) and Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA or Metrolink) are requesting permits and authorization for Area 4 of the Critical San Clemente Railroad Protection Project (Project) in San Clemente, Orange County, California. The Project includes improvements along the coastal rail line corridor that focus on maintenance and fortification of existing facilities as well as sand nourishment. The Project is located along the railroad right-of-way within the Orange Subdivision of the Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor (LOSSAN Corridor) and is utilized by several entities including Metrolink and Amtrak Pacific Surfliner for passenger service, as well as by the BNSF Railway for freight service. The Department of Defense (DOD) has designated this key railroad line as a part of the Strategic Rail Corridor Network (STRACNET).

Over the past three years, the coastal rail line corridor operations have been adversely affected by the processes of coastal bluff erosion, beach loss, revetment loss, and bluff failures. As a result, the purpose of the Project is to reinforce the eroding and exposed slopes below the rail corridor to avoid rail service disruptions and infrastructure damage that can lead to unsafe conditions for rail passengers and freight alike.

OCTA developed the Coastal Rail Resiliency Study Initial Assessment Technical Memorandum for rail facilities in the cities of Dana Point and San Clemente that identifies Area 4 that is addressed in this application (Appendix E: Coastal Rail Resiliency Study Initial Assessment Technical Memorandum). The Project includes engineered revetments and sand nourishment in Area 4 to stabilize the existing facilities and avoid another emergency action.

Area 4 has been evaluated for biological and cultural resources. Based on the biological resources evaluation, no state or federally regulated special status species would be impacted by the Project. Temporary and permanent impacts are anticipated to occur within jurisdictional waters of the United States (WOUS)/waters of the State (WOS) regulated by United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Regional Water Quality Board (RWQCB) resulting in the discharge of fill material that would be subject to regulations under Sections 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act. As the site conditions are precarious and the design is still being



finalized, OCTA and Metrolink determined it would be in the best interest of the public to provide existing project information known to date as part of this permit package as soon as possible to continue the necessary permit coordination. Impact calculations will be provided as soon as they are developed. Design of the Project is underway with alternatives analysis scheduled to be completed in Fall 2024 and preliminary engineering anticipated to be completed by mid-2025. Construction is expected to begin in Spring 2026.

This submittal package includes the following:

- Nationwide Permit 13 application for authorization under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act;
- Associated supporting documents.

A full list of attachments is provided on the following page. This submittal package is also provided electronically. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Dan Phu at OCTA (714-560-5907, Dphu@octa.net). For technical questions please contact Nina Delu at HDR (949-892-9413, nina.delu@hdrinc.com).

Sincerely,

Justin Fornelli, PE
Chief, Program Delivery
Metrolink

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jim Beil', is written over the typed name and title.

Jim Beil, PE
Executive Director, Capital Programs
OCTA

cc: Dan Phu, OCTA
Jason Lee, OCTA
Jenny Vick, HDR



REGULATORY PERMITTING SUBMITTAL DOCUMENTS

ATTACHMENTS (ELECTRONIC COPIES)

Submittal Forms and Subsequent Text

- 404: Application for Department of the Army Permit (ENG Form 4345)
- 404: Attachment A: Supplemental Information

Supporting Documents

- Attachment B: Preliminary USACE Jurisdictional Resources Map
- Attachment C: Biological Resources Memorandum
- Attachment D: Cultural Resource Technical Memorandum
- Attachment E: Coastal Rail Resiliency Study Initial Assessment Technical Memorandum