

# Memorandum

**To:** Chair and Commissioners

**Date:** February 24, 2009

**From:** JOHN F. BARNA, JR.

**File:** Book Item 2.2c (1)  
Action

**Ref:** Mitigated Negative Declaration – Fullerton Turnback Facility and Anaheim Layover Facility (Resolution E-09-11)

**ISSUE:** Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) to allow the Metrolink Service Track Expansion and Grade Crossing Improvements Project to be considered for future funding?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends that the Commission accept the MND for the Fullerton Turnback Facility and Anaheim Layover Facility and approve the attached resolution to allow for future consideration of funding.

**BACKGROUND:** The Metrolink Service Track Expansion and Grade Crossing Improvements Project includes track components located on portions of two Southern California Regional Rail Authority subdivisions: the Orange Subdivision (from Fullerton Junction to Laguna Niguel) and the Olive Subdivision (at the Fullerton Junction). The project also includes proposed changes to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway San Bernardino Subdivision at the Fullerton Junction, as well as grade crossing safety improvements at 52 locations.

The project scope of work includes the following project segments:

- Fullerton Turnback Facility/Anaheim Layover Facility
- Laguna Niguel Siding, Platform and Turnback Tracks
- Metrolink Service Grade Crossing Safety Improvements at various locations

On February 26, 2008, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), as the lead agency for CEQA compliance, completed an Initial Study/MND for the Fullerton Turnback Facility/Anaheim Layover Facility project segment. This project segment includes turnback tracks between Pomona Avenue and Orangethorpe Avenue at the Fullerton Transportation Center to facilitate intra-Orange County service. The Anaheim Layover Facility is proposed for use as an overnight layover and storage facility for Metrolink trains. The siding track is located south of Orangethorpe Avenue and extends to just north of the Riverside Freeway (State Route 91).

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The MND determined that the project would not have a significant effect on the environment with implementation of identified mitigation measures for impacts to air quality, biological resources, hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, public services, utilities, and services. Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to, utilization of lean nitrogen oxide (NOx) or diesel oxidation catalysts on the off-road diesel equipment and aqueous diesel fuel to minimize air quality impacts during construction, coordination with the applicable agencies prior to final design and preconstruction surveys for nesting birds by a qualified biologist to address biological resource impacts, development of a health and safety plan prior to the commencement of construction for specific procedures when encountering contaminants, limiting all project activities to a well-defined footprint to minimize impacts to water resources, and relocating crossovers approximately 75 feet away from residential areas to minimize noise impacts.

Categorical exemptions were filed in accordance with CEQA requirements for the Laguna Niguel Siding, Platform and Turnback Track and the Metrolink Service Grade Crossing Safety Improvements project segments.

The total project is estimated to cost \$186,459,000 and is programmed with Proposition 116 (\$19,169,000), Local (\$141,118,000), Proposition 1B Public Transportation Modernization Improvement and Service Enhancement Account (\$18,572,000) and Federal (\$7,600,000) funds. Construction is estimated to begin April 2009.

Attachments

- Resolution No. E-09-11
- Project Location

# CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

## Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding

### 12-ORA

### Resolution E-09-11

- 1.1** **WHEREAS**, the Orange County Transportation Authority has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
- Fullerton Turnback Facility/Anaheim Layover Facility
- 1.2** **WHEREAS**, the OCTA has certified that the Mitigated Negative Declaration has been completed pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines for its implementation; and
- 1.3** **WHEREAS**, the project would construct turn back tracks to facilitate intra-Orange County service and an overnight layover and storage facility for Metrolink trains; and
- 1.4** **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Mitigated Negative Declaration; and
- 1.5** **WHEREAS**, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
- 2.1** **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby approve the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.

# Orange County Commuter / Intercity Rail Program of Projects

