




May 18, 2026

To: Members of the Board of Directors

From: Jason Jewell, Managing Director 

Subject: Agreement with Union Pacific Railroad for Corridor Hardening and Coastal Resiliency Improvements

Overview

The Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency has programmed \$19,000,000 in funding for long-term corridor hardening and coastal resiliency improvements along the Santa Barbara Subdivision in partnership with Union Pacific Railroad. Staff have worked with Union Pacific Railroad to identify the most critical and urgent locations where there is the need to stabilize the track and adjacent bluffs. To advance work at these critical locations, staff are seeking Board of Directors' approval to negotiate and execute an agreement with Union Pacific Railroad to deliver the improvements.

Recommendation

Authorize the Managing Director to negotiate and execute an agreement between the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency and Union Pacific Railroad for a not-to-exceed amount of \$19,000,000 for the construction of long-term improvements necessary to stabilize the track and adjacent bluffs in five areas along the Santa Barbara Subdivision.

Background

In February 2020, the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor Agency (Agency) Board of Directors (Board) approved an agreement with Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) to design and construct capital improvements necessary to implement two additional roundtrips north of Los Angeles. This agreement included \$3,055,000 in committed funding for Corridor Hardening, which included small bluff stabilization projects.

Since 2022, as part of ongoing efforts to address the accelerating coastal resiliency challenges along the rail corridor from San Diego to San Luis Obispo,

the LOSSAN Agency has partnered with Union Pacific Railroad to identify critical and urgent coastal resiliency areas and define long-term solutions.

At the March 18, 2024, meeting, the Board approved the negotiation and execution of an agreement with UPRR for \$10,406,000 to design and construct repairs at Hollister Ranch and Surfin' Cowboy on the Santa Barbara Subdivision. Construction at these two locations was completed in 2025.

Discussion

LOSSAN staff, in coordination with Union Pacific Railroad, have identified a program of projects that would address five additional areas of previously identified destabilization. To complete this program of projects, LOSSAN would provide \$19 million for Union Pacific to design and construct bluff stabilization measures in the areas of Rincon Point (Santa Barbara), Ortega Hill, El Capitan, Tajiguas, and Cojo. Each of these areas is in Santa Barbara County and within the same region that experienced a recent landslide resulting in a weeklong track closure north of Goleta in January 2026.

LOSSAN Agency staff have been working with UPRR to develop preliminary designs and advance environmental clearance for these resiliency projects as quickly as possible. They are located between mileposts 319.01 and 380.70 and are experiencing accelerated erosion due to inclement weather and require immediate attention.

The proposed improvements would include (but are not limited to) improving drainage by replacing and constructing all necessary culverts and piping, as well as implementing structural measures such as walls and/or tiebacks to secure and restore hillside and slopes in the vulnerable areas. The proposed measures will significantly improve long-term safety and reliability in the affected areas.

Staff have been working with UPRR to prepare a draft agreement to help fund the work required at these five locations. Following Board approval, UPRR will execute an agreement with the contractor to perform the work. The term of this agreement is anticipated to be three years.

Fiscal Impact

Funding for this project is provided through Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) and State Rail Assistance funding and is included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget. The value of the agreement is a maximum obligation not to exceed \$19,000,000.

Summary

Staff have been working with Union Pacific Railroad to draft a reimbursement agreement for the construction of five coastal resiliency projects along the Santa Barbara Subdivision. The projects are consistent with those previously identified in coordination with Union Pacific Railroad. Staff are seeking Board approval to negotiate and execute the agreement with Union Pacific Railroad.

Attachment

None.

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