


**June 15, 2026**

**To:** Members of the Board of Directors

**From:** Jason Jewell, Managing Director 

**Subject:** Amendment to Agreement for Preparation of Plans, Specifications, and Estimates for the Leesdale Siding Extension Project

### **Overview**

On May 15, 2023, the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency Board of Directors approved an agreement with Zephyr Rail, to prepare the plans, specifications, and estimates for the Leesdale Siding Extension project. An amendment to the existing agreement is requested to address continued delays in third-party design reviews, unforeseen high level of effort in utility coordination, and additional requirements by the environmental resource agencies, which have collectively resulted in additional costs.

### **Recommendation**

Authorize the Managing Director to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 2 to Agreement No. L-3-0001 between the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency and Zephyr Rail in an amount up to \$226,808.27, for additional support in the preparation of plans, specifications, and estimates for the Leesdale Siding Extension project. This will increase the maximum cumulative obligation of the agreement to a total contract value of \$4,359,824.41.

### **Discussion**

The Leesdale Siding Extension project (Project) in Ventura County will allow for the expansion of service north of Los Angeles and will result in reduced travel time and increased reliability. The Project will also enhance vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle safety at two at-grade rail crossings that will be upgraded due to the additional track at each grade crossing. The Project is located within Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) territory and requires design reviews by UPRR at each milestone along with adherence to UPRR right-of-entry permitting procedures.

The initial contract schedule included 14 months to complete the plans, specifications, and estimates and fulfill the requirements of the contract. Due to longer than expected third-party design reviews from UPRR, the County of Ventura, and California

Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the current anticipated completion date for this design portion of the Project is September of 2026.

In addition to these delays, there have been several unforeseen issues as described below:

- **Utility Relocations and Coordination:** Approximately 66 utility conflicts have been identified with approximately 50 of them needing relocation. More than a dozen utility owners are involved and the process to address each relocation through UPRR requires a higher level of effort than anticipated.
- **At-Grade Crossing Coordination / Requirements:** No as-built plans were available for these crossings through Caltrans. The Design Consultant was required to recreate them to be in compliance. Also, Caltrans is requiring the submission of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention plan, which was not included in the Scope of Work.
- **Additional Environmental Work:** Additional edits were required to the permit application to reflect new coordination efforts with the Mitigation Bank regarding compensatory mitigation, based on input received during the pre-filing meeting with the Regional Water Quality Board on February 5, 2026.
- **Additional Drainage Work:** The County of Ventura is requesting additional improvements to existing facilities as part of the permit requirement. These improvements were not listed in the Scope of Work.

These efforts added additional time and cost to the design portion of the Project.

The Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency staff and Zephyr Rail have agreed upon the level of effort for the additional required services as described in the Discussion section, and staff found Zephyr’s price proposal, in the amount of \$226,808.27, to be fair and reasonable relative to the level of effort and the independent cost estimate. Proposed Amendment No. 2 to Agreement No. L-3-0001, in the amount of \$226,808.27, is to provide funding for the required level of effort. Amendment No. 1 will bring the total contract value to \$4,359,824.41.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The proposed Amendment will add \$226,808.27 to the total contract cost. There is adequate budget authority remaining in the fiscal year 2025-26 budget, therefore no budget amendment is necessary. If approved, the additional cost of this contract

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would be funded using reprogrammed State Rail Assistance formula funds under Account 0085-7519-X2031-D8Q.

***Summary***

Staff recommends the Board of Directors authorize the Managing Director to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 2 to Agreement No. L-3-0001 between the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency and Zephyr Rail, for additional work in the preparation of plans, specifications, and estimates for the Leesdale Siding Extension project in the amount of \$226,808.27, for a total amended contract value of \$4,359,824.41.

***Attachment***

- A. Zephyr Rail., Agreement No. L-3-0001 Fact Sheet

**Prepared by:**



David Berryman  
Capital Program Manager  
(714) 560-5681