



June 26, 2026

The Honorable Catherine Blakespear
1202 O Street, Suite 7720
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Blakespear:

On behalf of the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor Agency (Agency) Board of Directors (Board), I would like to thank you for your continued support of the LOSSAN Agency and tireless efforts to help improve passenger rail services on the corridor.

I am writing in response to your letter dated June 11, 2026, outlining concerns regarding the Agency's pursuit of an Administrative Support Agreement (ASA). We share a common goal of pursuing every opportunity to improve passenger rail services across the LOSSAN rail corridor. As one of the original members of the LOSSAN Corridor Study Group and part of the reconstituted LOSSAN Agency, established through Senate Bill (SB) 1225, I have a strong interest in ensuring the Agency's continued success.

By way of history, the Agency's 2013 Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) governs the Agency's ability to select a Managing Agency. The original solicitation for the LOSSAN Managing Agency was administered by the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) consistent with their role at the time and LOSSAN Board direction. The solicitation was developed by SANDAG in collaboration with the other member agencies, approved by the LOSSAN Board and limited to member agencies, associate agencies and any commuter rail agency which utilizes the same facilities to provide commuter rail service. Three member agencies responded to the solicitation: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), and the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System. The solicitations were reviewed by SANDAG for consistency and then evaluated by the LOSSAN Board-approved review committee, which was comprised of members of the LOSSAN Board, the Managing Director (at the time) of the Capital Corridor Joint Powers Authority, and the Executive Director of the San Altamont Corridor Express. The review committee made a recommendation to the full LOSSAN Board for OCTA to be selected as the managing agency. Following a presentation by each responding agency and discussion with the evaluation committee, the LOSSAN Board selected OCTA to serve as the Managing Agency.

Since that time, the ASA has been renewed in 2018, following Board direction to notify member agencies of intent and opportunity to provide input, with unanimous approval from the LOSSAN Board. In addition, the LOSSAN Board has twice unanimously approved contract extensions in 2021 and 2024.

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The current effort to renew the ASA has followed a similar, transparent process, including a letter of recommitment from OCTA Chief Executive Officer Darrell Johnson dated May 28, 2026, attached, a letter notifying member agencies from the LOSSAN Managing Director dated May 28, 2026, attached, and a regular agenda item on both the LOSSAN Agency Executive Committee agenda on June 4, 2026 and the LOSSAN Agency Board agenda June 15, 2026. The Board item was deferred and will be reconsidered by the LOSSAN Executive Committee and Board on July 2, 2026, and July 20, 2026, respectively.

The JPA structure to manage intercity rail service in California is well established and has a proven successful track record. The Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) District has successfully provided management services to the Capital Corridor JPA since 1988, while the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRRRC) has successfully provided management services to the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority since 2013. Both agencies continue to thrive and improve intercity rail service due to the continuity of strong administrative support roles that both BART and SJRRRC have provided. Similarly, OCTA has a proven track record of technical expertise, operational capacity and institutional resources necessary to continue to support the LOSSAN Agency's evolving responsibilities.

For over 13 years, OCTA has served as the Managing Agency for the LOSSAN Agency and during this time, the LOSSAN Agency has not only fulfilled the foundational goals established under SB 1225 and the State Rail Plan but has also significantly advanced intercity passenger rail service throughout the rail corridor. The Agency has expanded and improved service, including for special events, strengthened connections with partner services, and advanced significant capital projects supporting corridor resiliency, capacity and reliability. Following the full restoration of service levels and implementation of an expanded service pilot this year, ridership and revenue exceed pre-pandemic levels by approximately 8 and 17 percent respectively, while farebox recovery continues to exceed State performance requirements. The management of the Pacific Surfliner service under the LOSSAN Agency and backed by the administrative services of OCTA has exceeded expectations and continues to improve.

On behalf of the LOSSAN Board, I look forward to continuing to work with you to improve passenger rail ridership, reliability and coordination throughout the corridor and State, and thank you once again for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Fred Strong
Chair, LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency

c: LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency Board of Directors
Jason Jewell, Managing Director LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency

Enclosures

California State Senate

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TEL (949) 598-5850

SENATOR.BLAKESPEAR@SENATE.CA.GOV
WWW.SENATE.CA.GOV/BLAKESPEAR

SENATOR
CATHERINE S. BLAKESPEAR
THIRTY-EIGHTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT



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JOINT COMMITTEES
CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

June 11, 2026

The Honorable Fred Strong
Chair, LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency
550 S. Main Street
Orange, CA 92868

The Honorable Jewel Edson
Vice Chair, LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency
550 S. Main Street
Orange, CA 92868

RE: LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency Administrative Support Agreement

Dear Chair Strong and Vice Chair Edson:

I am writing to express my strong concern regarding the LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency's pursuit of an Administrative Support Agreement (ASA) without an open, transparent and competitive solicitation process. The Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) rail corridor and passenger rail operators face significant challenges. Given these circumstances, we cannot forgo an important opportunity to objectively evaluate the LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency ASA.

Since 2022, the California State Senate Transportation Subcommittee on LOSSAN Rail Corridor Resiliency has worked collaboratively with the LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency to improve passenger rail ridership, service reliability and regional coordination. We share a common commitment to identifying and pursuing every opportunity to improve the management of rail services. The Board's consideration of an ASA presents such an opportunity. I urge the Board to initiate a competitive and independent selection process that invites participation from all eligible agencies, provides an impartial evaluation of responses and results in a recommendation for an ASA based on defined criteria.

Sincerely,

Catherine S. Blakespear
State Senator, District 38

cc: The Honorable Toks Omishakin, Secretary, California State Transportation Agency



AFFILIATED AGENCIES

*Orange County
Transit District*

*Local Transportation
Authority*

*Service Authority for
Freeway Emergencies*

*Consolidated Transportation
Service Agency*

*Congestion Management
Agency*

May 28, 2026

Fred Strong
Chairman

Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor
1114 Marsh Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Dear Mr. Strong:

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) has greatly valued our more than 13-year partnership with the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency (LOSSAN Agency) in serving as the managing agency.

During this time, the LOSSAN Agency has not only fulfilled the foundational goals established under Senate Bill 1225, but has also significantly advanced intercity passenger rail service throughout the corridor. Together, we have expanded and better coordinated service, implemented numerous passenger-focused amenities, strengthened connections with partner services, and advanced key capital projects—an expanded role beyond what was originally contemplated in the Administrative Services Agreement.

On behalf of OCTA, I would like to express our strong commitment to and continued desire to serve as the managing agency for the LOSSAN Agency. Over the past 13 years, we have achieved several significant milestones, beginning with the successful negotiation and implementation of the first interagency transfer agreement, which was subsequently renewed in July 1, 2018, with option terms executed through September 30, 2029.

With OCTA's support, the LOSSAN Agency has been able to:

- Expand and better coordinate passenger rail service throughout the corridor.
- Enhance the customer experience through improved ticketing systems, food and beverage service, transfer and codeshare coordination, expanded partnerships with corridor destinations, onboard Wi-Fi, equipment refreshes, and other passenger amenities.
- Successfully pursue and secure state and federal funding for both passenger enhancements and critical capital improvements along the corridor.

Mr. Fred Strong

May 28, 2026

Page 2

In addition to providing day-to-day staffing and administrative support, OCTA has consistently supplied the technical expertise, operational capacity, and institutional resources necessary to support the LOSSAN Agency's evolving responsibilities. With OCTA serving as the organizational backbone of the LOSSAN Agency, we have not only achieved the accomplishments noted above, but also successfully navigated extraordinary challenges, including the 2018 mudslides, the coronavirus pandemic beginning in 2020, and multiple rail line closures between 2023 and 2025.

OCTA remains fully committed to supporting the continued success of the LOSSAN Agency and ensuring strong leadership in passenger rail service planning and delivery throughout the corridor. In 2024, OCTA purchased a new permanent headquarters near our current offices, and the continuation of our role as managing agency was an important consideration in that decision. The new facility provides ample space to accommodate the LOSSAN Agency's current operations as well as future growth opportunities.

OCTA is proud of the partnership we have built with the LOSSAN Agency, and we stand ready to continue serving as the managing agency. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss OCTA's continued partnership and commitment with the LOSSAN Board.

Sincerely,



Darrell E. Johnson
Chief Executive Officer

c: LOSSAN Agency Board
LOSSAN Member Agency CEO's



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May 28, 2026

Stephanie Wiggins
Chief Executive Officer
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Ms. Wiggins,

On behalf of the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor Agency (Agency), I would like to thank you for your support of the LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency. Since 2013, the Orange County Transportation Agency (OCTA) has served as the LOSSAN Agency's managing agency, and in this capacity has achieved many significant goals of the Agency.

Of significant accomplishments this past year, the LOSSAN Agency has restored service to pre-pandemic levels supported by its first ever Federal Grant Award of over \$27 million. In addition, the Agency has advanced planned service expansion in cooperation with member agency stakeholders. Additional achievements of particular note this past year are included as an attachment to this letter.

The current administrative support agreement (ASA) between the LOSSAN Agency and OCTA will expire in June 2027. In an effort to ensure sufficient time for member agency input, the LOSSAN Board of Directors (Board) is addressing the ASA now. In consultation with the LOSSAN Chair, discussions with member agencies and OCTA's support to continue in its role, staff will be bringing an item to the June Executive Committee and Board meetings to pursue continuance of the administrative support agreement between OCTA and LOSSAN.

Thank you for your continued partnership along the LOSSAN Rail Corridor and your continued support of the LOSSAN Agency.

Sincerely,

Jason Jewell
Managing Director LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency

c: Fred Strong, Chair LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency
Darrell Johnson, CEO OCTA

Enclosure



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May 28, 2026

Darrell Johnson
Chief Executive Officer
Orange County Transportation Authority
600 South Main Street
Orange, CA 92868

Dear Mr. Johnson,

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Thank you for your continued partnership along the LOSSAN Rail Corridor and your continued support of the LOSSAN Agency.

Sincerely,

Jason Jewell
Managing Director LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency

c: Fred Strong, Chair LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency

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May 28, 2026

Martin Erickson
Executive Director
Ventura County Transportation Commission
751 E. Dailey Drive, Suite 420
Camarillo, CA 93010

Dear Mr. Erickson,

On behalf of the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor Agency (Agency), I would like to thank you for your support of the LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency. Since 2013, the Orange County Transportation Agency (OCTA) has served as the LOSSAN Agency's managing agency, and in this capacity has achieved many significant goals of the Agency.

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Sincerely,

Jason Jewell
Managing Director LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency

c: Fred Strong, Chair LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency
Darrell Johnson, CEO OCTA

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May 28, 2026

Pete Rodgers
Executive Director
San Luis Obispo Council of Governments
1114 Marsh Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Dear Mr. Rodgers,

On behalf of the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor Agency (Agency), I would like to thank you for your support of the LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency. Since 2013, the Orange County Transportation Agency (OCTA) has served as the LOSSAN Agency's managing agency, and in this capacity has achieved many significant goals of the Agency.

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Sincerely,

Jason Jewell
Managing Director LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency

c: Fred Strong, Chair LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency
Darrell Johnson, CEO OCTA

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May 28, 2026

Sharon Cooney
Chief Executive Officer
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System
1255 Imperial Avenue, Suite 1000
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Ms. Cooney,

On behalf of the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor Agency (Agency), I would like to thank you for your support of the LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency. Since 2013, the Orange County Transportation Agency (OCTA) has served as the LOSSAN Agency's managing agency, and in this capacity has achieved many significant goals of the Agency.

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Sincerely,

Jason Jewell
Managing Director LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency

c: Fred Strong, Chair LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency
Darrell Johnson, CEO OCTA

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May 28, 2026

Marjie Kirn
Executive Director
Santa Barbara Association of Governments
260 N. San Antonio Road, Suite B
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Dear Ms. Kirn,

On behalf of the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor Agency (Agency), I would like to thank you for your support of the LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency. Since 2013, the Orange County Transportation Agency (OCTA) has served as the LOSSAN Agency's managing agency, and in this capacity has achieved many significant goals of the Agency.

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Sincerely,

Jason Jewell
Managing Director LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency

c: Fred Strong, Chair LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency
Darrell Johnson, CEO OCTA

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May 28, 2026

Mario Orso
Chief Executive Officer
San Diego Association of Governments
1011 Union Street, Suite 400
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Mr. Orso,

On behalf of the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor Agency (Agency), I would like to thank you for your support of the LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency. Since 2013, the Orange County Transportation Agency (OCTA) has served as the LOSSAN Agency's managing agency, and in this capacity has achieved many significant goals of the Agency.

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Jason Jewell
Managing Director LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency

c: Fred Strong, Chair LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency
Darrell Johnson, CEO OCTA

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May 28, 2026

Aaron Hake
Executive Director
Riverside County Transportation Commission
4080 Lemon Street, 3rd Floor
Riverside, CA 92502

Dear Mr. Hake,

On behalf of the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor Agency (Agency), I would like to thank you for your support of the LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency. Since 2013, the Orange County Transportation Agency (OCTA) has served as the LOSSAN Agency's managing agency, and in this capacity has achieved many significant goals of the Agency.

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Southern California
Regional Rail Authority

Union Pacific

May 28, 2026

Shawn Donaghy
Executive Director
North County Transit District
810 Mission Avenue
Oceanside, CA 92054

Dear Mr. Donaghy,

On behalf of the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor Agency (Agency), I would like to thank you for your support of the LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency. Since 2013, the Orange County Transportation Agency (OCTA) has served as the LOSSAN Agency's managing agency, and in this capacity has achieved many significant goals of the Agency.

Of significant accomplishments this past year, the LOSSAN Agency has restored service to pre-pandemic levels supported by its first ever Federal Grant Award of over \$27 million. In addition, the Agency has advanced planned service expansion in cooperation with member agency stakeholders. Additional achievements of particular note this past year are included as an attachment to this letter.

The current administrative support agreement (ASA) between the LOSSAN Agency and OCTA will expire in June 2027. In an effort to ensure sufficient time for member agency input, the LOSSAN Board of Directors (Board) is addressing the ASA now. In consultation with the LOSSAN Chair, discussions with member agencies and OCTA's support to continue in its role, staff will be bringing an item to the June Executive Committee and Board meetings to pursue continuance of the administrative support agreement between OCTA and LOSSAN.

Thank you for your continued partnership along the LOSSAN Rail Corridor and your continued support of the LOSSAN Agency.

Sincerely,

Jason Jewell
Managing Director LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency

c: Fred Strong, Chair LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency
Darrell Johnson, CEO OCTA

Enclosure



MEMORANDUM

March 16, 2026

To: Members of the Board of Directors

From: Jason Jewell, Managing Director 

Subject: **Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency
2025 Accomplishments**

I am pleased to share with the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor Agency (Agency) Board of Directors (Board) key Agency highlights and accomplishments for 2025. I would like to thank outgoing Chair Jung, Vice Chair Strong, and the entire Board for their leadership during 2025.

As we move forward, I remain committed to providing organizational leadership to achieve our goals as an agency, with a focus on delivering sustainable and reliable service, growing ridership, enhancing on-time performance (OTP), pursuing opportunities for expanded service including special events, and prioritizing corridor resiliency and safety in coordination with corridor-wide stakeholders.

Below are noteworthy results and accomplishments from 2025 and 2026 year-to-date.

Agency Leadership

Throughout 2025, LOSSAN staff and I worked to develop and implement an active program to achieve Board and Agency goals and to advance key strategies. This work included:

- Developing and receiving Board approval for the 2026 Board Goals and Initiatives with continued accountability through tracking and reporting progress through the year.
- Developed and received Board approval for the 2025 and 2026 Legislative Platform.
- Maintaining strong engagement with stakeholders throughout the rail corridor and at the state and federal levels by:
 - Participation in the California Statewide Working Group alongside Caltrans, the Capital Corridor Joint Powers Authority (JPA), and the San Joaquin JPA.
 - Participation in the Intercity Rail JPA Leadership Group.

- Participation in the State-Amtrak Intercity Passenger Rail Committee (SAIPRC).
- Participation in California's Intercity Rail Corridor's Linking Everybody (CIRCLE).
- Participation in the States for Passenger Rail Coalition (SPRC), including annual federal outreach trip to Washington DC.

Finance & Administration

A strong financial and administrative foundation plays a central role in ensuring the LOSSAN Agency has the resources and infrastructure necessary to achieve its mission. Financial and administrative accomplishments include:

- Developed and obtained Board and State approval of the LOSSAN Agency Business Plan (Business Plan) for fiscal years (FY) 2025-26 and 2026-27.
- Developed and obtained Board approval of the Business Plan for FY 2026-27 and 2027-28, which will be submitted to the State by April 1, 2026. This included an updated, streamlined format.
- Awarded \$27.1 million through the Federal Railroad Administration's Restoration & Enhancement Grant to fully restore pre-COVID service levels, marking the first federal grant award to the LOSSAN Agency. Staff prepared and submitted all necessary agreement documents, allowing LOSSAN to successfully execute the grant award contract.
- Developed and obtained Board approval for a Title VI Program, required for federal grant awards.
- Received Board approval to update the LOSSAN Agency's Travel & Business Expense Policy.
- Received a clean, "unmodified," audit opinion on the FY 2024-25 LOSSAN Agency financial statements, with no audit findings or recommendations.
- Actively participated in the State-Amtrak Intercity Passenger Rail Committee (SAIPRC) Cost Working Group, which implemented additional cost methodology updates to improve Amtrak financial transparency and predictability.
- Provided the Board with timely and transparent quarterly financial reports, including the quarterly budget status report and the quarterly grant status report.

- Continued planning and implementation of a demand-based pricing model with Amtrak.
- Participated in the CalSTA-led Rail Alliance initiative alongside other California rail operators to support statewide coordination on ticketing interoperability concepts and related system planning.

Grants & Capital Projects

The LOSSAN Capital Improvement Program (CIP) advances projects that are critical in achieving the Agency's near-, mid- and long-term service goals and helping to ensure the resiliency of the rail corridor.

The CIP is supported by an active grants program to secure funding from state and federal sources. Key milestones in the areas of grants and capital projects include:

- Completed the Honda Creek Bridge project in coordination with Union Pacific.
- Completed and closed out several projects within the State Rail Assistance program including software maintenance, OTP, and a capitalized access agreement.
- Completed remaining projects and processed all remaining reimbursements for the 2016 Transit & Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) grant award, allowing for full closeout of the award.
- Provided funding strategy support for the City of Camarillo on the proposed pedestrian undercrossing to facilitate the project's continued advancement.
- Successfully negotiated with Union Pacific for approval to move forward with a new pedestrian undercrossing at Camarillo Station.
- Secured \$26.2 million in 2024 TIRCP funding through a successful joint effort with the Coast Rail Coordinating Council. LOSSAN is the implementing agency for construction of the Orcutt Road Left-Hand Crossover (\$4.2 million) and the Ortega Siding (\$22 million). With this award, the total TIRCP funding secured by the LOSSAN Agency since the program's inception has reached nearly \$368 million.
- Successfully negotiated a preliminary agreement with Union Pacific for projects involving drainage infrastructure and wall repairs in five locations along the Santa Barbara coastline, advancing coastal resiliency efforts in the northern portion of the LOSSAN corridor.

- Completed the Surfin' Cowboy and Hollister Ranch bluff stabilization projects in coordination with Union Pacific.
- Advanced four key capital projects: Central Coast Layover Facility, Leesdale Siding Extension, Goleta Layover Expansion, and Ortega Siding.
- Continued the effort to identify a location for the proposed San Diego Layover Facility by reopening the 2021 study, evaluating the previously identified locations, and preparing exhibits for newly identified locations.
- In coordination with Amtrak, completed installation of new compressors at the Goleta and Los Angeles facilities, replaced pumps and derail gates at Goleta Layover Facility, and installed Wi-Fi and carpet in passenger cars through the Minor Capital Program.

Operations & Service Planning

For LOSSAN Operations and Service Planning efforts, the focus was on restoring service and ridership, continuing safety and security coordination, and improving the passenger experience through improved customer information at stations. Highlights of these efforts include:

- Reached significant milestone by successfully implementing full-service restoration to 13 roundtrips between Los Angeles and San Diego.
- Coordinated with intercity rail JPA partners to successfully redeploy four bi-level rail cars to support the 13th roundtrip restoration.
- Coordinated with intercity rail JPA partners to successfully redeploy six single-level rail coach cars to support emergency service usage.
- Received Board approval to advance efforts with member agency partners for an expanded service pilot to provide 6th roundtrip to Goleta, 3rd roundtrip to San Luis Obispo while supporting peak period commuter schedules in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.
- Provided successful contingency bus service during track closures, preserving ridership.
- Added capacity during holidays, reaching more than 65,000 boardings during Thanksgiving.
- Finalized FY 2025 Amtrak operating agreement, chaired the SAIPRC Equipment Working Group and advanced statewide fleet planning.

- Coordinated with Caltrans and the JPAs efforts to advance the Truck Overhaul Program, which will increase lifespan of state-owned equipment.
- Installed new Thruway Bus schedule cases at stations associated with Routes 17 and 39.
- Installed new large display cases at various Pacific Surfliner stations to display schedules and marketing materials.
- Continued coastal resiliency coordination with technical stakeholders.
- Partnered with California Operation Lifesaver to promote rail safety during September Rail Safety Month.
- Participated as a panelist at the Ventura County Behavioral Health Suicide Prevention Symposium to raise awareness and education about rail safety.

Marketing & Passenger Experience

Overall, marketing initiatives in 2025 resulted in higher engagement, ridership, and revenue. Key activities included:

- Driven in part by overall marketing efforts, total ridership reached over two million for federal FFY 2025, up three percent from FFY 2024, attributable in part to increased service levels with the reinstatement of the 11th and 12th roundtrips.
- Website generated 1.9 million users and \$3.13 million in ticket revenue.
- Event promotions included San Diego Comic Con, Del Mar Races, Ventura County Fair, and Wonderfront. Successful promotions with Disney for its 70th Anniversary and SeaWorld significantly boosted ridership.
- Social media campaigns achieved high engagement and follower growth. On social media, Pacific Surfliner accounts generated 16.8 million total views, 164,000 content interactions, and over 188,000 link clicks to the website. Follower growth increased by over 100 percent on Facebook and 38 percent on Instagram, while engagement across platforms nearly doubled year-over-year.
- Email marketing also contributed to greater brand visibility around Pacific Surfliner news, track work, events, and more via monthly newsletters and special event sends. Our email subscriber list grew by nearly 42 percent.

- Paid media campaigns successfully drove high-volume traffic to the website at an efficient cost per click, enabling us to increase results while spending less over the previous period.
- Developed new station monument signs and provided regular customer communications, including promoting rail safety.
- Executed semiannual Market Café menu refreshes in April and October and launched the first-ever daily After-Hours Happy Hour promotion in November, driving higher evening foot traffic and sales revenue.

The LOSSAN Agency staff and I appreciate the continued support of the Board as we work to implement the Board Goals and Initiatives and the Business Plan. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about the highlights and accomplishments above.

c: LOSSAN Member Agencies Chief Executive Officers
LOSSAN Technical Advisory Committee Members

NORTH COUNTY TRANSIT

SAN DIEGO RAILROAD

June 12, 2026

LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency Board of Directors
c/o LOSSAN Clerk of the Board
Sent Via Electronic Mail: lossanclerk@cota.net

Dear Chair Strong and LOSSAN Board of Directors:

North County Transit District, operating as North County Transit – San Diego Railroad, is in receipt of the LOSSAN Agency's letter dated June 2, 2026, regarding internal conversations with LOSSAN's Board Chair, Fred Strong, concerning the future Managing Agency role for LOSSAN. NCTD has previously expressed its interest in serving as the Managing Agency for LOSSAN. I write to express opposition to item No. 9 for LOSSAN's June 15, 2026, agenda for the Board of Directors. NCTD strongly urges the Board to vote "no" on the staff recommendation to authorize the Managing Director to negotiate and execute an administrative support agreement with the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA). A decision of this magnitude deserves to be decided through competitive procurement to determine the best management and administrative structure to optimize Amtrak Pacific Surfliner operations. At the outset, I would like to note that I have a great deal of respect for the leadership at OCTA and appreciate the support they have provided LOSSAN in an administrative capacity.

As LOSSAN is aware, there are significant issues unresolved at the State level regarding the future of passenger rail and intercity rail along all corridors. Given the importance of these issues, it is imperative that the agency best suited to assist LOSSAN and address them are selected by the Board through a fair, competitive and open process. The ASA was initially executed in 2013 after SB 1225, Stats. 2012 ch 802, codified in relevant parts of Government Code sections 14072 et seq., recognized LOSSAN as an existing joint powers authority and authorized its reconstitution through an amended joint powers agreement to administer state-funded intercity passenger rail service on the LOSSAN corridor. The execution of the new ASA must follow a fair, competitive and transparent procurement process.

NCTD believes it is well positioned to participate in that process. The agency owns a significant portion of the San Diego Subdivision and retains maintenance and dispatching authority for the entirety of the aforementioned. NCTD also hosts freight, passenger, and inter-city passenger rail service (Amtrak) and oversees movement associated with STRACTNET, in partnership with our Armed Forces. These responsibilities provide NCTD with direct experience and institutional knowledge that would be highly relevant to guiding LOSSAN and its Board of Directors through the operational, financial, and policy issues now facing the corridor, which remain uncertain in the future.

Public transit and passenger rail systems throughout California continue to see revenue pressures, including revenue declines affecting passenger rail statewide and within NCTD's own agreement with LOSSAN. In light of these challenges, the efficiencies that could be realized by having a rail agency serve as Managing Agency for LOSSAN warrant full and fair consideration.

Earlier in 2026, LOSSAN's Executive Director reached out asking if NCTD had an interest in participating in the competitive process for identifying LOSSAN's next Managing Agency. NCTD made its interest clear, and the

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conversation continued with SANDAG and our Legislative Officials in Sacramento for any support that could be provided. We had a follow-up meeting to discuss on March 27, 2026, where NCTD was advised that the estimated timeline for release of a Request for Proposals was approximately 3-6 months. It is also unfortunate that while only a few Board Members at LOSSAN were informed of this direction, it appears many were not – including the representative of the agency who expressed interest in the competitive process and is the current Vice Chair of the LOSSAN Board.

It is NCTD's position that both SB 1225 and LOSSAN Agreement No. L-8-0010 expressly require a fair and competitive process for any future Managing Agency contract. NCTD has relied on LOSSAN's prior representations that such a process would be undertaken. Now the agency has clear concerns that LOSSAN may authorize negotiation and execution of a new ASA without a competitive procurement process – one which OCTA's procurement team noted would require an "exception" to their current policy according to LOSSAN.

NCTD is respectfully requesting for the LOSSAN board to vote "no" as LOSSAN has not and from NCTD's position cannot provide in writing, findings or any legal justification on the public record which affords interested public entities, the public and the Board a meaningful opportunity to consider the findings and justifications relied in the recommendation made at the LOSSAN Executive Committee meeting to forgo a competitive process.

NCTD reserves all legal and administrative remedies available to it should LOSSAN remain unwilling to act in the best interests of the corridor, member agencies, new and prospective riders, and the public. NCTD remains willing to engage constructively with LOSSAN, OCTA, the Board, and State partners to ensure that the next Managing Agency selection process be conducted in a manner that best serves the corridor, the participating agencies, and the public. As such, this is also an official request / demand for written findings and legal justification on the record regarding June 15, 2026, Board Item No. 9: Authorization to Negotiate and Execute Administrative Support Agreement with OCTA.

Sincerely,



Shawn M. Donaghy
Chief Executive Officer

CC: NCTD Board of Directors
The Honorable Catherine Blakespear, Senator, California State Senate
Toks Omishakin, Secretary of Transportation, State of California
Mario Orso, Chief Executive Officer, SANDAG
Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer, OCTA