

## Meeting of April 10, 2023

### Passenger Rail Service between Orange and San Diego Counties to Resume April 17

All regular Metrolink and Amtrak Pacific Surfliner service is scheduled to resume beginning Monday, April 17, after the Orange County Transportation Authority's emergency construction work has been successful in stopping slope movement and stabilizing the tracks in south San Clemente.

Passenger rail service was stopped through south San Clemente in late September out of an abundance of caution and to allow for the emergency repairs after the track was found to have moved more than 2 feet between September 2021 and September 2022. The track movement was caused by the gradually sliding hillside next to the track, as well as storm surge and sand erosion.

With partial funding from the State of California, OCTA began construction work to stabilize the tracks in November, which has included drilling large steel ground anchors in the bedrock of the privately-owned slope to prevent it from pushing the track further toward the ocean.

OCTA officials reported during the OCTA board meeting that the construction has been effective in stopping movement of the track. Crews this week will finish installing and locking off the second row of grade beam panels and ground anchor tiebacks that are stabilizing the privately owned hillside next to the track.

For more information on the project, visit [octa.net/RailImprovements](https://octa.net/RailImprovements). For updates on rail service and schedules, visit [MetrolinkTrains.com](https://MetrolinkTrains.com) and [PacificSurfliner.com/alerts](https://PacificSurfliner.com/alerts).

### Board Honors Employee Rotation Program Graduates

OCTA's board of directors recognized three employees who recently completed the agency's Employee Rotation Program.

Over the past 15 months, three OCTA employees moved through various roles in seven departments to gain a comprehensive understanding of all aspects of OCTA.

The three employees are:

- Aaron Delgado, who has been with OCTA for more than nine years. Aaron began as an equipment parts clerk before moving into a senior warranty coordinator role in the materials management department of the Santa Ana Base. Aaron is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in business with an operations certificate from the University of Phoenix.
- Kelsey Imler, who has been with OCTA for five years. Kelsey joined OCTA as a local programs intern while earning a bachelor's degree in criminology, law and society from the University of California, Irvine. She is now a transportation funding analyst and oversees OCTA's Measure M eligibility process.
- Dustin Sifford, who has been with OCTA for more than five years. Prior to the Rotation Program, Dustin worked as a government relations representative. In this role, he helped maximize transit funding and resources for Orange County through coordinating with OCTA departments on

project delivery and operational improvements. Dustin received his J.D. from George Mason University in Virginia and graduated from Maryville University in St. Louis.

### **OCTA Board Awards \$37 Million to Improve Orange County Streets**

OCTA's board awarded more than \$37 million for 10 projects to improve streets throughout Orange County.

The funds for these projects are made available through Measure M, Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements, also known as OC Go.

More than \$33 million will go toward seven projects focused on improving and widening busy streets and intersections in Irvine, Santa Ana and Yorba Linda. The remaining \$4 million will be awarded to three projects in Irvine and Mission Viejo that will synchronize traffic signals to ensure drivers hit the greatest number of green lights during peak traffic hours.