



**COACHELLA
VALLEY RAIL**



KEY MESSAGES FOR RCTC COMMISSIONERS

Updated August 2025

1. What can I tell my constituents about the project?

- The Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) is working toward establishing daily intercity passenger rail service between Los Angeles and the Coachella Valley with the Coachella Valley Rail Project (CV Rail).
- RCTC is moving forward with environmental studies, design, and station planning in collaboration with Caltrans and other partners.
- This complex project will likely exceed \$1.5 billion and may begin service by 2040.
- The investments made will offer a new travel option to help reduce traffic congestion on major freeways like the I-10.
- Keeping this project moving is a priority. Population and goods movement are growing, and the cost of inaction will be greater later.
- Final station locations along the corridor have yet to be determined. Comprehensive public outreach efforts will be conducted to gather feedback from the public and stakeholders.

2. What is the Coachella Valley Rail Project?

- The proposed corridor spans 144 miles with planned stops at Los Angeles Union Station, Fullerton, Riverside, San Bernardino County, San Geronio Pass, Palm Springs, Mid Valley, Indio, and Coachella.
- The service aims for an approximate travel time of 3 hours and 15 minutes.
- The operator of the service is still yet to be determined.
- The service will utilize both new and existing tracks shared with freight and passenger rail operators.
- RCTC has advocated for this service for over 30 years.

3. What is the status of the project?

The project is beginning the next phase of environmental work under state and federal environmental laws (CEQA/NEPA) and an update to the Service Development Plan (SDP). Completing environmental and planning may take up to three years. RCTC is also working with Caltrans to identify who will operate the future train service.

4. What actions is RCTC taking?

- Update the Service Development Plan (SDP) to address outstanding commitments to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).
- Collaborate with the Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor Agency to evaluate their potential role in managing and operating the Coachella Valley Rail service.
- Develop the Tier 2 Project-level Environmental Document, estimated at roughly \$85 million, by April 2032, while allowing for concurrent work that could save two to three years.
- Support for legislative efforts to expedite CEQA and the environmental process.

5. What are the next steps for the Coachella Valley Rail Project?

- RCTC will complete the Tier 2 Environmental Review in two phases:
 - Phase 1: Complete CEQA review and station studies for \$25 million
 - Phase 2: Conduct NEPA review and 30% design for \$60 million
- Total funding for the environmental, Service Development Plan (SDP), and 30% design is \$85 million.
- The strategy will reduce the project time from 6-8 years to 4-5 years.
- A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for consultant services will be awarded in January 2026.

