



## NEWS RELEASE

**Date** June 21, 2021  
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*For immediate release*

### **Public Invited to Virtual Public Hearings this Tuesday, Saturday for Proposed New Passenger Rail Service in Riverside County**

Virtual public hearings are set for Tuesday, June 22 and Saturday, June 26 for residents, commuters, and other stakeholders to weigh in on the proposed Coachella Valley-San Geronio Pass Rail Corridor Service draft environmental studies.

The Riverside County Transportation Commission, in partnership with Caltrans and the Federal Railroad Administration, will host the public hearings to provide an overview of the potential new passenger rail service from Los Angeles to Coachella Valley and the opportunity for meeting participants to make comments on studies included in the draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR).

Participants must use the Zoom links below at the scheduled dates and times. The content will be the same for both public hearings. For those unable to participate, a recording of the public hearing will be posted on the project webpage the week of June 28. The deadline to submit comments is July 6.

- **Public Hearing #1: Tuesday, June 22, 6 p.m.**  
<https://zoom.us/j/98860393291?pwd=VkJSUHRFaWRhUXhnM3BQRnBnb0Zqdz09>
- **Public Hearing #2: Saturday, June 26, 9 a.m.**  
<https://zoom.us/j/99115218303?pwd=MHBFSnFTWS9ORGM0Z3pvNnFTVXN2UT09>

Comments also will be accepted in writing, both online and by U.S. mail:

- <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FRA-2021-0048-0002>

**Coachella Valley-San Gorgonio Pass Rail Corridor Service Program**  
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- Federal Railroad Administration  
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Washington, DC 20590

The draft Tier 1 Program EIS/EIR is available for review at [rctc.org/cvrail](http://rctc.org/cvrail) and at libraries at Los Angeles Union Station/Metro Library, Fullerton, Riverside, Colton, Loma Linda, Redlands, Beaumont, Banning, Palm Springs, Indio, and Coachella.

The proposed service would provide two daily roundtrips between Los Angeles and the Coachella Valley, a 144-mile route. Service could begin in about 10 years after the current EIS/EIR is completed, if RCTC and project partners receive environmental approvals, obtain commitments from the freight railroads, and secure funding for the estimated \$1 billion project.

The service would offer an alternative to driving or riding the bus, serve residential and job centers along the corridor, enhance access to Coachella Valley tourism and boost economic development from the tourism industry, reduce vehicle miles traveled, and improve air quality, especially in disadvantaged communities that align major highways.

Following the close of the public comment period on July 6, RCTC will respond to comments and prepare a Final EIS/EIR for Commission review and approval.

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