



Project Briefing

During its January 29, 2026, meeting, the Commission approved \$80 million to HDR Engineering to conduct Tier 2 environmental studies for the Coachella Valley Rail Project (CV Rail). CV Rail will establish daily intercity passenger rail service along a proposed corridor spanning 144 miles between Los Angeles and the Coachella Valley with planned stops at Los Angeles Union Station, Riverside, and Coachella Valley.

CV Rail Begins Next Phase

The \$80 million approval moves CV Rail into the next phase of environmental work and will include environmental studies (CEQA/NEPA), design, and station planning in collaboration with Caltrans and other partners.

Building on Previous Work

The Commission certified the Final Tier 1/Program-Level Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report in July 2022. In 2023, the Federal Rail Administration (FRA) added CV Rail in the Corridor ID program. With this designation, the project is in a position to better compete for federal funding to advance to final design and construction.

Environmental Review

The Tier 2 Environmental Review process will occur in two phases:

- Phase 1: Complete CEQA review, preliminary engineering, and station studies
- Phase 2: Conduct NEPA review and 30% design

Looking Forward

This passenger rail service will connect communities - driving economic growth and giving travelers a safe, convenient choice to move across the region.

- CV Rail is a complex project that will likely exceed \$1.5 billion.
- Service may begin by 2040, depending on funding, final design, and construction.
- Final station locations along the corridor have yet to be determined.
- Comprehensive public outreach efforts will be conducted throughout the project life.

RCTC has received support from federal, state, and regional partner agencies and stakeholders for CV Rail. The project, along with future investments in our region's rail network, represents the Commission's ongoing commitment to delivering transportation projects that offer Riverside County residents convenient mobility options.