



ITEM ID: 2025-374-0

TRANSMITTAL DATE: December 5, 2025

MEETING DATE: December 12, 2025

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Justin Fornelli, Chief, Program Delivery

SUBJECT: Agreement with Peterson Ranch Mitigation Bank for the Arroyo Simi Bridges Scour Protection Project

Issue

The Authority is advancing with a project to complete scour protection at four bridges that cross the Arroyo Simi River on Metrolink's Ventura Line. The project is known as the Arroyo Simi Four Rural Bridges Scour Protection Project. The Regional Water Quality Control Board has determined that the project impacts existing wetlands and requires the purchase of wetland mitigation credits.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute an agreement with the Peterson Ranch Mitigation Bank in the amount of \$1,817,000 to purchase mitigation credits for the Arroyo Simi Four Rural Bridges Scour Protection Project.

Strategic Commitment

This report aligns with the Strategic Business Plan commitment of:

- **Safety is Foundational:** We will stay on the leading edge by performing improvements to our structures to enhance the safety of our riders, our fellow employees, and the communities we serve. This project will protect our structures from failure due to storm events, thus reducing accidents and interruptions while increasing safety by maintaining our rail assets in a state of good repair.

Background

The Arroyo Simi River is a meandering river that crosses Metrolink's Ventura County Line in four separate locations at Mileposts 427.7, 428.16, 428.64, and 429.27, in the City of Moorpark. The bridges all vary by length but consist of similar structure types and are in similar conditions. The bridges were built in 1953, and the piers that support the bridges require additional scour protection to prevent further erosion caused by water flow around the bridge piers and to protect them from potential wash out during storm events. Scour can happen during storm events and can cause serious harm to structures. The scour mitigation improvements require removal of the existing river bottom to armor the bridge piers and protect the structural integrity of the bridge during storm events.

The project is funded in partnership with VCTC with matching funds from the FRA. The project has been determined to be categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Class 1, pursuant to CCR Title 14, Chapter 6, Division 3, Section 15301(d). Additionally, the project has been determined to be categorically excluded by Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) pursuant to 23 CFR Section 771.

SCRRA staff have been working closely with the agencies that regulate waterways: Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife, to obtain permits prior to start of construction and the regulatory permits require construction work to be conducted during the dry season between May and October of the calendar year.

All Conditional Permits with regulatory agencies were obtained in 2023. Based on the footprint that the Authority is performing scour protection improvements for each of the four bridges, the total impacted area is estimated at 8.2 acres (approximately 2 acres per bridge).

During the permitting process of the project, the Regional Water Quality Control Board determined that the project impacted existing wetlands and required the purchase of wetland mitigation credits. State and federal regulations require purchases of mitigation bank credits when a project has environmental impacts on aquatic resources, such as those that results from construction work on channels or rivers. A mitigation bank is a wetland, stream, or other aquatic resource area that has been restored, established, enhanced or preserved for the purpose of providing compensation for unavoidable impacts to other aquatic resources as permitted by federal, state and local regulations.

Discussion

The Authority has identified a mitigation bank that will meet the Regional Water Quality Control Board requirements. Peterson Ranch Mitigation Bank has 8.75 acres of restoration (approximately two acres of environmental impacts per bridge), enhancement and re-establishment credits available to mitigate the impacts of the project. Purchasing 8.75 acres of total mitigation bank credits for all four bridges will cost \$1,817,000. To ensure due diligence, staff researched availability of other mitigation banks and negotiated the price with Peterson Ranch. Staff determined that the current quote is reasonable based on the limited availability of other mitigation banks, and the type of mitigation needed to offset the project impacts.

The Final Design was completed in October 2025, and mitigation credits must be secured before the project can proceed to construction.

Budget Impact

The purchase price of \$1,817,000 is included in the funding for the project in the FY19 Capital Budget adopted by the SCRRA Board of Directors.

Next Steps

Upon the Board's approval of the agreement, the Chief Executive Officer will negotiate and execute the agreement for the purchase of the 8.75 acres of total bank mitigation credits in the amount of \$1,817,000 from the Peterson Ranch Mitigation Bank.

Prepared by: Sean Lopez, Railroad Civil Engineer

Approved by: Justin Fornelli, Chief, Program Delivery

Attachment(s)

[Presentation - Arroyo Simi Bridges Scour Protection Project](#)