

ITEM 8F.



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ITEM ID: 2026-289-0

TRANSMITTAL DATE: September 18, 2026

MEETING DATE: September 25, 2026

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Justin Fornelli, Chief, Program Delivery

SUBJECT: Contract No. C3173-27 - Ventura Line and Antelope Valley Line Rehabilitation & Reliability Project - Recommendation to Award - DRS Contracting

Issue

Rehabilitation and/or replacement of various track and structures infrastructure within the Ventura Subdivision are required to maintain a state of good repair and maintain the safety and reliability of the existing rail system and supporting infrastructure.

Rehabilitation of Tunnel 25 and Tunnel 26 track and drainage infrastructure improvements within the Valley Subdivision and Ventura Subdivision, respectively, are required to maintain a state of good repair and maintain the safety and reliability of the existing rail system and supporting infrastructure.

A new contract is required through which the various improvements described above will be implemented.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer to award Contract No. C3173-27 – Ventura Line and Antelope Valley Line Rehabilitation & Reliability Project to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, DRS Contracting, for \$17,519,500 plus 10% contract contingency of \$1,751,950.00 for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$19,271,450. This recommendation is subject to the resolution of any timely filed protest.

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 track system to enhance the safety of our riders, our fellow employees, and the communities we serve. This contract will reduce train delays and interruptions while increasing safety and service reliability by maintaining our rail assets in a state of good repair.

Background

The Authority proposes to replace sections of track, structures along various locations on the Ventura Subdivision. The Authority also proposes rehabilitating Tunnel 25 and Tunnel 26 track infrastructure on the Valley Subdivision and Ventura Subdivision, respectively. The Ventura Subdivision serves Metrolink's Ventura County Line, Amtrak Pacific Surfliner intercity rail, Amtrak's long distance Coast Starlight, and Union Pacific Railroad freight trains and is identified as the second most heavily traveled intercity passenger rail corridor in the nation. The Valley Subdivision serves Metrolink's Antelope Valley Line and Union Pacific Railroad freight trains.

The Authority secured Federal funding for this project under the FRA's Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair Grant Program by utilizing SCORE associated Transit and Intercity Rail Program (TIRCP) funding managed by the State (Caltrans) as a match. Since this project was able to leverage TIRCP funds to secure Federal funding, these improvements will enhance the safety, reliability and resiliency of Metrolink's railway system and maintain our rail assets in a state of good repair prior to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics and Paralympics.

Discussion

On May 18, 2026, Authority staff issued an Invitation for Bid (IFB) for the Ventura Line and Antelope Valley Line Rehabilitation & Reliability Project Rehabilitation and Reliability Project with a period of performance of five hundred and twenty-five (525) construction days, from the date of the fully executed contract. The IFB was posted on the Authority's solicitation portal and advertised in publications in the five-member counties. Notices were sent directly to 1,338 firms registered in the Authority's online vendor database. Ninety-Five (95) firms downloaded the solicitation. Representatives from twenty (20) firms attended the virtual pre-bid meeting on June 3, 2026. A physical job walk was not conducted; however, the firms were provided a virtual job walk video. Three (3) bids were received on July 22, 2026, due date. DRS Contracting was found to be the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. Its bid amount was 13.6% below the Authority's Independent Cost Estimate (ICE), which was developed using the average bid pricing from recently awarded IFB's for similar projects. Based on recent bid pricing for similar project as basis of Authority's ICE, the lowest bid, which came under the Authority's ICE, was found to be fair and reasonable. Bids were evaluated based on the total base bid plus option.

BIDDER	BID AMOUNT
DRS CONTRACTING	\$17,519,500.00
BALFOUR BEATTY INFRASTRUCTURE	\$26,091,658.90
CON-QUEST CONTRACTORS, INC.	\$34,778,340.00
INDEPENDENT COST ESTIMATE	\$20,270,665.85

Budget Impact

The amounts for this project have been approved in FY21 and FY23 capital budgets and funded by FY2020 Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair Grant Program using matching TIRCP funds granted by CalSTA through SCORE.

Next Steps

Upon approval by the Board, Staff will execute Contract No. C3173-27 – Ventura Line and Antelope Valley Line Rehabilitation & Reliability Project Rehabilitation & Reliability Project with DRS Contracting, in an amount not-to-exceed \$19,271,450.00, and will issue a Notice to Proceed.

Prepared by: Sean Lopez, Railroad Civil Engineer I
Sharon Williams, Sr. Contract & Compliance Administrator

Approved by: Justin Fornelli, Chief, Program Delivery

Attachment(s)

[Presentation - Contract No. C3173-27](#)