

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PREPARATION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

The San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA) is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Arrow Maintenance Facility Hydrogen Fuel Vehicle Upgrades Project (Project).

Project Number and Title: Arrow Maintenance Facility (AMF) Hydrogen Fuel Upgrade Project

Project Applicant: San Bernardino County Transportation Authority

Project Address/Location: The Project is located at SBCTA's Arrow Maintenance Facility (AMF), which is located northeast of the San Bernardino Santa Fe Depot and Metrolink Station platforms, near the intersection of North J Street and 3rd Street in the City of San Bernardino, California, (Figure 1). The Project site (Figure 2) will be confined to SBCTA's existing AMF site located on Assessor Parcel Numbers (APN): 013823115, 013823111, 013823113, and 013823114.

Project Background: SBCTA is currently constructing the AMF, previously referred to as the Inland Empire Maintenance Facility (IEMF), which was environmentally cleared in 2012 (State Clearinghouse No. 2011051024). In 2019, SBCTA renamed the facility from "IEMF" to "AMF" to correspond with the branding of the planned Arrow service. The AMF will service SBCTA's diesel multiple unit (DMU) rail vehicle fleet for the Arrow service and start operations in 2021. The Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) will operate and dispatch the Arrow service in coordination with SCRRA's existing Metrolink service.

Project Description: The proposed Project would include reconfiguration of the AMF to allow for the integration and operation of zero-emission multiple unit (ZEMU) train vehicles in the southern portion of the AMF. As a part of the proposed Project, the AMF maintenance building would undergo multiple retrofits to comply with state and local requirements to facilitate the use of hydrogen (H₂) fuel for the ZEMU train. Improvements to the AMF maintenance building would include HVAC, spark-proofing on electrical wiring, battery charging outside of the maintenance building, and installation of a H₂ detection system. SBCTA would also construct a new H₂ Refueling Area in the southern portion of the AMF to facilitate ZEMU train vehicle refueling and operation.

To comply with local regulations and avoid conflicts, the Project may require improvements to existing on-site utilities including, but not limited to, storm drains, oil and grease separators, water (and fire) lines, and sanitary sewer lines. Based on current SCRRA utility accommodation standards and industry best practices, each utility line would be subject to removal, relocation, or protection in place.

Project construction is anticipated to commence in 2023 and would last approximately one year. Once constructed, the proposed Project would commence ZEMU operations in 2024 during non-revenue service and would commence revenue service starting on or after 2025.

Reviewing Agencies and Potential Approvals Required: The following agencies may have jurisdiction/interests concerning the proposed Project:

Regional, State and Federal:

- Federal Railroad Administration
- Southern California Edison
- South Coast Air Quality Management District
- Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Southern California Regional Rail Authority

Local:

- City of San Bernardino
- County of San Bernardino

Potential Environmental Effects (to be considered):

An Initial Study (IS) was prepared for this Project and is attached to this Notice of Preparation (NOP). As discussed previously, and noted within the attached IS, the proposed Project will prepare a focused EIR evaluating the potentially significant impacts identified within the IS. The following topics will be discussed within the focused EIR:

- Aesthetics,
- Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions,
- Tribal Cultural and Historic Resources,
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials,
- Land Use/Planning, and
- Utilities/Service Systems and Energy.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 21080.4(a) and Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, responsible and trustee agencies and members of the public are asked to provide written comments regarding the scope and content of the EIR. SBCTA is interested in understanding your views, or the views of your organization, regarding the effects this Project might have on the environment and your suggestions for ways to reduce or avoid any potential environmental impacts. Your comments will help us decide what issues to analyze in the environmental review for this Project. An electronic copy of the Initial Study is available for review on SBCTA's website - <https://www.gosbcta.com/project/diesel-multiple-unit-to-zero-emission-multiple-unit-pilot/>

Due to the time limits mandated by state law, your response must be sent as soon as possible but not later than 30 days after the date of publication of this notice. Your comments may be submitted in writing to Carrie Schindler, Director of Rail and Transit, 1170 West Third Street, 2nd Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92410, or via e-mail to zemu@gosbcta.com by March 31, 2021. Please include your name, email address, phone number, mailing address of the contact person, and reference the "Arrow Maintenance Facility (AMF) Hydrogen Fuel Upgrades Project" when submitting a comment.

Public Comment Period: March 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021

Publish Date: March 1, 2021

Figure 1. Regional Location

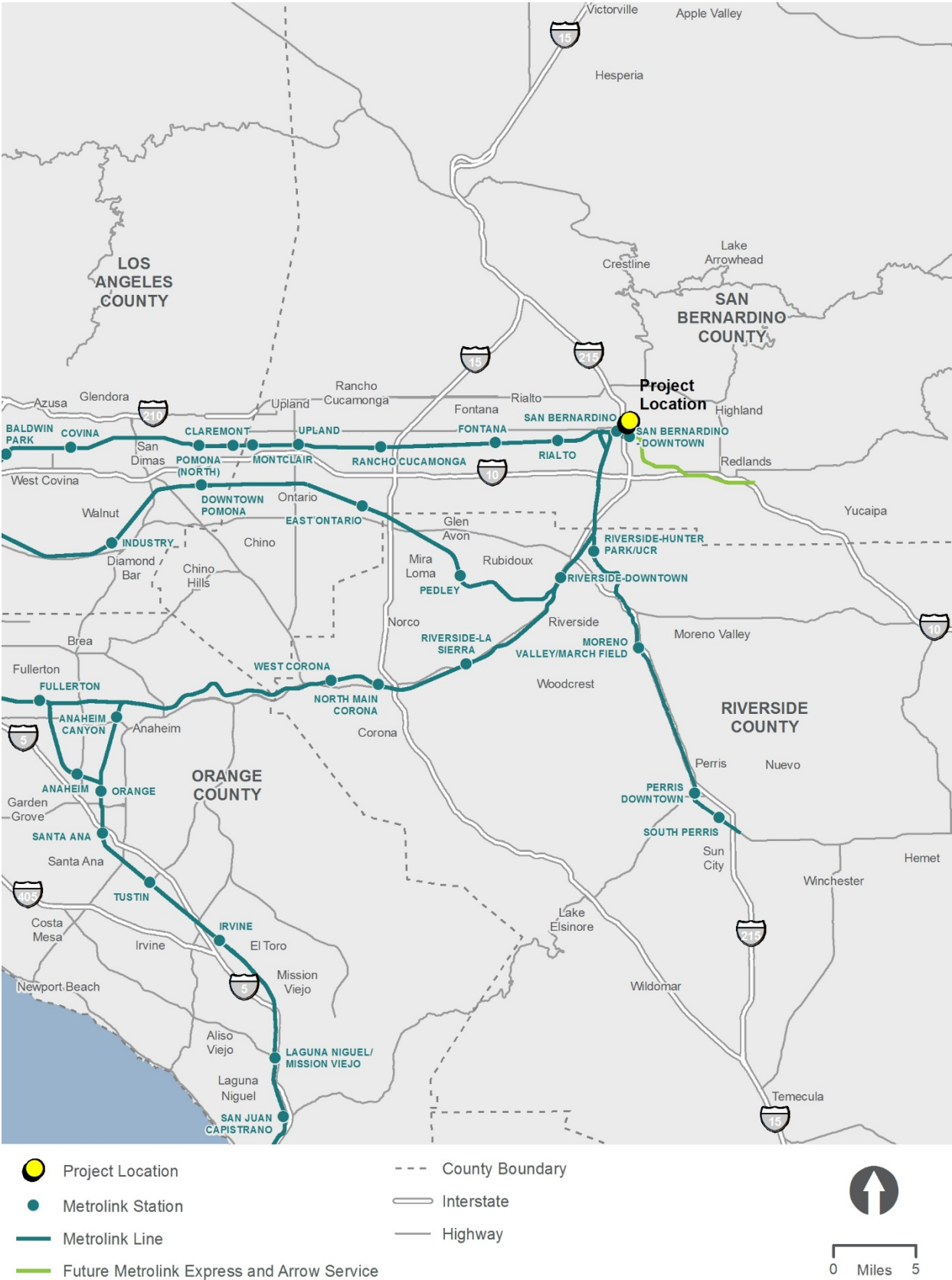


Figure 2. Project Site



-  AMF Site
-  ZEMU Site Improvements
-  ZEMU Refueling Area

