

# TRACK STABILIZATION PROJECT

## FAQs

### What is the Track Stabilization Project?

It is an emergency project to stabilize the railroad tracks in south San Clemente. The Orange County Transportation Authority, in coordination with Metrolink, is installing steel ground anchors into a hillside adjacent to the Cyprus Shore community. The anchors are being drilled into bedrock beneath the hillside, which is sliding because of erosion along the coast and an ancient landslide. Passenger train service through the area was suspended in early October 2022. Freight train service has been reduced.

### How much does the Project cost and how is it funded?

The preliminary Project cost is \$12 million based on conceptual design and is subject to change. With the support of the California Transportation Commission, OCTA has secured \$6 million from the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). In addition, OCTA has secured \$6 million from the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) to help fund the emergency construction.

### When will construction begin?

Work is underway and will continue through mid-April 2023. Work hours are from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and Saturdays as needed. No overnight work is anticipated. This schedule is preliminary and subject to change.

### What can the community expect during construction?

Crews are installing 220 ground anchors into the slope between the railroad tracks and the Cyprus Shore community. The work includes drilling the anchors into the ground, which may produce noise and vibration. Crews will also use lights during evening operations, as needed. Residents may hear back-up alarms from construction equipment; the alarms are required by state regulation. In addition, train horns may be sounded, a requirement when workers are present near the tracks.

### Why is this work critical?

Railroads are essential to the U.S. economy. This stretch of tracks is a key link in the 351-mile rail corridor that runs between San Diego and San Luis Obispo, serving passenger and freight trains, as well as over \$1 billion in goods movements annually. In addition, this is a national defense connector line. OCTA understands the need to continue protecting the integrity of a critical transportation corridor that serves passengers, goods movement, and national defense.

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# FAQs (Cont)

## With continued erosion, sea-level rise and other environmental factors, what are the long-term plans to protect the railroad tracks?

OCTA continues to pursue long-term options for protecting the rail line in this area and throughout the Orange County coastal region and will seek input from the public and all stakeholders as it continues to study the issue.

## When will passenger service be restored on Amtrak and Metrolink lines?

Amtrak's Pacific Surfliner restarted weekend service Saturday, Feb. 4. Metrolink will continue to operate weekend service but only as far south as the San Clemente Pier station, and weekday service as far south as the Laguna Niguel/Mission Viejo station.

To ensure worker safety and efficient completion of the project, rail service will not operate on the weekdays. For updates on rail services and schedules, visit [pacificsurfliner.com/alerts](https://pacificsurfliner.com/alerts) and [Service Alerts - Metrolink](#).

The Track Stabilization project is anticipated to be completed by mid-April 2023. Rail service could resume prior to construction completion, but that decision hasn't been made. OCTA will work with its rail agency partners to determine when service can safely restart.

## What involvement does the City of San Clemente have in this Project?

OCTA is working with the City of San Clemente to obtain the required permits to construct the Project and to facilitate utility coordination.

## How can the public stay informed about the Project?

- Visit the Project website: [octa.net/railimprovements](https://octa.net/railimprovements)
- Sign up for construction alerts: [octa.net/railimprovements](https://octa.net/railimprovements) click on the "Stay Connected" tab
- Email: [railimprovements@octa.net](mailto:railimprovements@octa.net)
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