



**Metro**

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Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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## NOTICE OF COMPLETION AND AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

**DATE:** March 16, 2018

**TO:** Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

**SUBJECT:** Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

**PROJECT TITLE:** Division 20 Portal Widening/Turnback Facility Project

**SCH NUMBER:** 2017101034

**FROM:** Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro)

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), as Lead Agency, has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the Division 20 Portal Widening/Turnback Facility Project (Proposed Project). This notice provides the public, responsible agencies, and other interested parties with a summary of the Proposed Project, and information regarding the availability of the Draft EIR for public review of the Draft EIR.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The Proposed Project includes widening of the portal for the Metro Red and Purple Lines, construction of new storage tracks, and the provision of a new turnback facility. Specifically, the Proposed Project components include:

- Widening the tunnel portal that currently connects the Metro Red and Purple Lines to the Rail Yard, including construction of a new ventilation shaft building;
- Constructing new storage tracks;
- Reconfiguring existing tracks and access roads to accommodate a turnback facility;
- Installing a new traction power substation and emergency backup power generator;
- Expanding the Rail Yard west, into areas currently occupied by the Citizens Warehouse/Lysle Storage Company building (formerly known as the James K. Hill and Sons Pickle Works building), the LAPD Viertel's Central Division Police Garage, and the National Cold Storage facility;
- Repurposing an existing building at 100-120 North Santa Fe Avenue for Maintenance of Way activities;
- Modifying the 1<sup>st</sup> Street Bridge piers and superstructure; and
- Vacating portions of three City streets (i.e., Jackson, Banning, and Ducommun Streets east of Center Street).

**PROJECT LOCATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:** The Proposed Project would be located within and in the vicinity of the existing Metro Red and Purple Lines Maintenance Yard (Division 20 Rail Yard). The Division 20 Rail Yard is an approximately 45-acre site that houses the Metro Red/Purple Line train storage and maintenance facilities. It is generally bounded by the Los Angeles River to the east, Santa Fe Avenue to the west, Ducommun Street to the north, and the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge to the south. The footprint of the Proposed Project, including expansion of the existing boundaries, west towards Santa Fe Avenue, and north towards Commercial Street. The western boundary of the Project Site includes commercial/industrial properties along Santa Fe Avenue, as well as the One Santa Fe mixed-use complex south of the 1<sup>st</sup> Street Bridge. Immediately to the south of the Project Site is the Arts District, which is comprised of housing,

industrial uses, commercial uses, art galleries, and exhibition warehouse spaces. Land uses to the north include commercial/industrial buildings, and the Los Angeles River is located to the east beyond freight rail tracks.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVES:** Given the ongoing Metro Purple Line Westside Extension project, storage constraints that inhibit fleet expansion, and the absence of a turnback facility, the goal of the Proposed Project is to accommodate the expansion and associated increased ridership of Metro's heavy rail system. The two objectives of the Proposed Project are:

Objective #1: Construct core capacity improvements needed for increased service levels on Metro Red and Purple Lines.

Objective #2: Construct new tracks and switches that will allow trains to provide faster and more reliable service times at Union Station.

**POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:** The Draft EIR includes an assessment of each environmental topic identified in the CEQA Guidelines. Based on the Proposed Project description and locations, the Draft EIR focuses on the following key impact areas: Aesthetics, Air Quality, Cultural Resources, Energy Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Noise and Vibration, and Tribal Cultural Resources. An assessment of other environmental topics such as Biological Resources is also included in the Draft EIR, although with less detail than the assessment of focused topics.

With the exception of Cultural Resources (Historic) and Noise and Vibration, the Draft EIR did not identify any environmental resources to which the Proposed Project would have the potential to create significant unavoidable impacts.

**Hazardous Materials Sites:** Per California Government Code Section 65962.5, the Viertel's Towing Company and the Metro Red/Purple Line tunnel and portal opening were jointly identified on the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor database as Aliso Street Manufactured Gas Plant Sector C, Block K (EnviroStor ID #s 60000171 and 60001890). The site is located on the northeast corner of Ducommun and Center Streets. DTSC has overseen the investigation and cleanup of this property under a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement with the Southern California Gas Company (SoCal Gas). DTSC concluded in 2009 that SoCal Gas successfully implemented a Site Removal Action Workplan allowing unrestricted commercial or industrial use of the site. The Metro Bus Layover and Sheriff Facility, located adjacent to the Project Site on Center Street between Ducommun and Jackson Street, is also identified on the DTSC database as Aliso Street MGP Sector C, Block N (EnviroStor ID # 60000170). DTSC has overseen the investigation and cleanup of this property under a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement with SoCal Gas. DTSC concluded in 2006 that SoCal Gas successfully implemented a Site Removal Action Workplan and land use restrictions were put in place in 2007 for "Certified O&M – Land Use Restrictions Only". Lastly, EnviroStor ID 60000172 refers to Blocks Q and R of the Aliso Street MGP Sector C, where the National Cold Storage facility is located. DTSC has overseen the investigation and cleanup of this property under a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement with SoCal Gas.

**PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD:** March 16, 2018 to April 30, 2018.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** A public hearing to provide comments on the Draft EIR, as following.

**Date:** Thursday, April 12, 2018  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Metro Board Room  
One Gateway Plaza, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

A Live webcast of the public hearing is available in English::

**Link:** [www.tinyurl.com/division20](http://www.tinyurl.com/division20)

**Date:** Thursday, April 12, 2018

**Time:** 6:30pm

**Details:** Viewers will not be able to submit questions or comments via webcast.

**COMMENTS:** Comments on the Draft EIR may be submitted in writing or orally during the public hearing. Written comments must be sent to Cris B. Liban, D. Env., P.E., Executive Officer, Environmental Compliance and Sustainability, Metro, One Gateway Plaza, Mail Stop 99-16-9, via e-mail at [LibanE@metro.net](mailto:LibanE@metro.net), or submitted via an online comment form found on the project website at [metro.net/projects/division-20](http://metro.net/projects/division-20).

**DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY:** The Draft EIR is available for review at the website <https://www.metro.net/projects/capital-projects>, and at the following locations:

- Los Angeles Public Library, Central Library, 630 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Los Angeles, CA 90071
- Los Angeles Public Library, Little Tokyo Branch, 203 South Los Angeles Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- Kappe Library at SCI-Arc, 960 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013

**ADA REQUIREMENTS:** Upon request, sign language interpretation, materials in alternative formats, and other accommodations are available to the public for Metro-sponsored meetings and events. All requests for reasonable accommodations, interpretation services, and materials in other languages must be made at least three working days (72 hours) prior to the scheduled meeting date. Please submit requests by calling (323) 466-3876 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Our TDD line is (800) 252-9040. Individuals with hearing or speech impairment may use California Relay Service 711 + Metro phone number.