



Press Release

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## High-Speed Rail Authority Applauds Release of Prop 1A Connectivity Funds for Local Rail Improvements

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) applauds the California Transportation Commission’s approval of the release of \$8.5 million of Proposition 1A connectivity funds for the Southern California Regional Rail Authority’s (Metrolink) High-Speed Readiness Program. The program will increase Metrolink service levels to support and compliment planned increases in ridership as well as connectivity to the future high-speed rail system.

“This funding will provide Los Angeles and the surrounding areas with a better, safer, and cleaner passenger rail experience in the very near future,” said Authority Southern California Regional Director Michelle Boehm. “Modernizing and improving local rail service like Metrolink, will increase Southern Californian’s mobility and economic opportunity, while reducing harmful emissions released into the air.”

The \$8.5 million allocated on Wednesday allows Metrolink to purchase three additional high powered Tier-4 locomotives for their commuter rail service. This is part of an \$89 million investment of connectivity funds allocated through Senate Bill 1029 (Budget Act of 2013) to repower and/or purchase 20 to 30 stronger, faster, and greener locomotives, and recondition and improve passenger cars. The state investment of \$89 million will help leverage a total of \$203 million for this purpose. Metrolink also received approximately \$35 million for Positive Train Control (PTC) system work from Proposition 1A connectivity funds in previous appropriations.

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### *About California High-Speed Rail Authority*

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) is responsible for planning, designing, building and operation of the first high-speed rail system in the nation. California high-speed rail will connect the mega-regions of the state, contribute to economic development and a cleaner environment, create jobs and preserve agricultural and protected lands. By 2029, the system will run from San Francisco to the Los Angeles basin in under three hours at speeds capable of over 200 miles per hour. The system will eventually extend to Sacramento and San Diego, totaling 800 miles with up to 24 stations. In addition, the Authority is working with regional partners to implement a statewide rail modernization plan that will invest billions of dollars in local and regional rail lines to meet the state’s 21st century transportation needs. To learn more visit the Authority’s website at <http://www.hsr.ca.gov> and join us on [facebook.com/CaliforniaHighSpeedRail](https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaHighSpeedRail) and follow us at [twitter.com/cahsra](https://twitter.com/cahsra)