

CEO Report for January, 2021 Hearing

- I. **2021 Proposed Meeting Schedule:** I included in the Board Members' binders a proposed schedule for our monthly meetings for Calendar Year 2021. This schedule is updated from a version first discussed last month. The revision is necessary to make sure the Board can consider and take actions relative to the adoption of the 2020 Business Plan consistent with the current timeline for plan adoption.
- II. **Look Ahead at 2021:** As we start a new year, there are several milestone accomplishments and important issues that will come before the board. Below is a *partial list* of those milestones and important issues expected to come before the board in the year ahead:
- **Quarter 1, 2021:** The Authority will achieve 100 percent of the required state match for the federal ARRA funds awarded to this project—22 months ahead of deadline;
 - **Quarter 2, 2021:** Authority to submit Final 2020 Business Plan to Legislature (i.e., by April 15, 2021);
 - **Quarter 2, 2021:** Board consideration of the Record-of Decision (ROD) certification (i.e., environmental clearance) for first segment into Los Angeles County--Bakersfield to Palmdale;
 - **Quarter 3, 2021:** Consideration to award the track and system contract;
 - **Quarter 3, 2021:** Consideration to release a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Rail Delivery Partner (RDP) services;
 - **Quarter 4, 2021:** Board consideration of the Record-of-Decision certification (i.e., environmental clearance) for the second segment in Los Angeles County—Burbank to Los Angeles;
 - **Quarter 4, 2021:** Construction completed or underway on 83 of 93 structures and 106 of 119 miles of guideway by the end of 2021.
- III. **Anaheim MOU:** In December, 2020, the Authority executed a high-level Memorandum-of-Understanding with the city of Anaheim to express our intent that the Phase 1 system southern terminus would be at the Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center (ARTIC). ARTIC is an intermodal transit center that serves as a train station for Amtrak and Metrolink, as well as a bus station for local and regional bus services. The MOU outlines how the Authority and city of Anaheim and Orange County representatives will work together to accommodate and optimize high-speed rail service into Anaheim at the ARTIC center, consistent with our environmental review process.

- IV. **Cybersecurity Update:** On December 13, 2020, the Department of Homeland Security-Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) issued an emergency alert warning of an exploit of SolarWinds software. SolarWinds is an industry standard network monitoring software used by federal, state, and local governments as well as private companies and organizations.
- High Speed Rail Authority information security staff immediately shut down the server running the SolarWinds software and began investigating for signs of compromise on our network;
 - We also engaged external cybersecurity experts for assistance;
 - After thorough forensic analysis; no evidence of system compromise, unauthorized access, or nefarious activity was found.

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