

COASTAL RAIL EMERGENCY PROJECTS

The Orange County Transportation Authority, in coordination with Metrolink, is taking emergency action to protect the community and rail passengers, as well as ensure the safety and reliability of overall rail operations.

OCTA Delivers First Wave of Sand Nourishment

OCTA has marked a key milestone in its ongoing effort to protect the coastal rail line with the first placement of sand at North Beach on Friday morning, Sept. 5. This is the first step in OCTA's broader plan to place 540,000 cubic yards of sand along the coastal rail line in San Clemente, pending environmental approval and applicable permitting.

More than 300 truckloads of sand from a quarry in Palm Springs, totaling approximately 3,200-3,400 cubic yards of sand, are scheduled to be delivered and placed along a 1,400-foot stretch of beach.

The sand placement is expected to take up to two weeks to complete. Work hours are Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Several North Beach parking spots are closed for the duration of the project to accommodate a temporary rail crossing and storage for equipment and materials.

Sand nourishment is a key component of OCTA's overall emergency efforts to reinforce the most vulnerable areas along a stretch of rail line through San Clemente.

Train horns may be sounded. The Federal Railroad Administration guidelines require all trains to sound their horns when workers are present, in emergency situations, or when there are trespassers on or around the tracks.



The graphic above depicts the initial sand placement at North Beach. Click on the image to enlarge.



Agency partners celebrated the initial sand nourishment at North Beach

Additional Emergency Work Begins Monday, Sept. 15

What

Contractors will begin mobilizing equipment Monday, Sept. 15, to construct a 1,400-foot-long catchment wall on the bluffside of the tracks at Mariposa Point. The wall will extend from the El Portal Beach access point to Linda Lane. Click on the image to view the project area.

Passenger rail service will not be affected during construction.

The project is expected to be completed in summer 2026.

This work may be loud. The schedule is subject to change due to inclement weather or unforeseen operational issues. Train horns may be sounded.



When

Monday through Saturday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. No nighttime work is anticipated.

Trail and Beach Access

The San Clemente Pedestrian Beach Trail will be closed from the North Beach parking lot to El Portal during work hours but will reopen at the end of each workday and will be open on Sundays. The trail will be closed from El Portal to Linda Lane until project completion.

The Mariposa underpass will be closed. All other beach access points will remain open during construction. To ensure the safety of pedestrians, flaggers will be stationed at these access points to assist with pedestrian crossing.

Staging Areas

Contractors will be staging equipment and materials primarily in the North Beach parking lot. Additional staging areas are still being identified.



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