

Limited Amtrak Pacific Surfliner Rail Service Set to Resume Through San Clemente on Wednesday

OCTA/Metrolink Team Continues to Work on Building Catchment Wall at Mariposa Point

ORANGE, Calif., March 5, 2024 -- Amtrak Pacific Surfliner is scheduled to resume limited passenger service through San Clemente beginning Wednesday morning (March 6), as work continues to build a catchment wall at Mariposa Point to protect the rail right of way.

With all 33 steel beams for the foundation of the wall in place and Amtrak conducting its own risk analysis, the OCTA, Metrolink and LOSSAN team have agreed that limited Pacific Surfliner service can safely resume to and from San Diego through San Clemente.



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Southbound Pacific Surfliner trains 562 (morning) and 784 (evening), as well as northbound Pacific Surfliner trains 765 (morning) and 587 (evening), will be fully reinstated without bus connections.

The morning trains will pass through San Clemente between 7 and 8 a.m., with the evening trains scheduled through the area between 6 and 7 p.m.

Mid-day service will not resume yet so that construction of the catchment wall can continue. Bus connections between Irvine and Oceanside will continue to be available for trains 769, 770, 774, 777, 785 and 790, to provide passengers with connections around the closure.

While the resumption of this morning and evening service will reduce the daily work window for construction, the team still anticipates being able to complete the catchment wall later this month. Once the wall construction is complete, full passenger service is expected to resume.

With Pacific Surfliner providing passenger rail service to and from Oceanside, and to limit the number of trains affecting construction daily, Metrolink will not resume service through the area right now. Metrolink will continue to only operate weekday service as far south as the Laguna Niguel/Mission Viejo Station, while weekend Orange County Line and Inland Empire-Orange County Line trains will only operate as far south as San Juan Capistrano.

Passengers are being directed to www.pacificsurfliner.com/alerts and www.metrolinktrains.com for the latest rail service updates.

Pacific Surfliner provides important connectivity to San Diego and other rail destinations nationwide. BNSF has been operating freight trains through the area overnight intermittently since Jan. 30.

The construction team, led by OCTA and Metrolink, continues to make progress on the catchment wall. Even with additional rain expected later this week, the team plans to continue to work on drainage, excavation and installing the wooden panels between the steel beams that will create the catchment wall.

The construction schedule is subject to change. For the latest updates and background, visit www.octa.net/railupdates.

For Updates on Rail Service: Passengers are asked to check MetrolinkTrains.com and PacificSurfliner.com/Alerts for real-time updates.

Background: The rail line was closed through San Clemente the evening of Wednesday, Jan. 24, when a landslide on private property above the city-owned Mariposa Trail Pedestrian Bridge caused major damage to the bridge and scattered debris onto the track.

OCTA, which owns the track, worked with partners at Metrolink and contractors to quickly mobilize emergency crews, who used heavy machinery on the rails to remove debris and haul away two large spans of the bridge, each weighing 24,000 pounds. The OCTA and Metrolink team continues to work to safely resume full passenger rail service as soon as possible.

Over the past three years, San Clemente's eroding bluffs – on both city and private property – have repeatedly forced the closure of the rail line which has operated largely uninterrupted for more than 125 years.

Unfortunately, it is becoming increasingly common for California's transportation infrastructure to suffer storm-related damage forcing closures and evacuations. Most recently, indefinite nightly closures were announced for a 6-mile stretch of Pacific Coast Highway north of Malibu, where storm damage sheared off stretches of the roadway. Additionally, roads and buildings in the City of Rancho Palos Verdes have suffered significant damage after record-setting rains saturated the ground and accelerated a landslide.

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