



# STAFF REPORT

## CITY OF SOLANA BEACH

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers  
**FROM:** Alyssa Muto, City Manager  
**MEETING DATE:** February 26, 2025  
**ORIGINATING DEPT:** Community Development Department – Joseph Lim, Community Development Director  
**SUBJECT:** **LOSSAN Rail Realignment Update and Action**

---

### **BACKGROUND:**

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), as the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has initiated the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the San Diego-Los Angeles-San Luis Obispo Rail Realignment (SDLRR) Project (PROJECT). Since the June 18, 2024 Scoping Meeting for the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of the Project, SANDAG initiated a Value Analysis (VA) process to technically evaluate and improve upon the alignment alternatives and/or potentially identify new alternatives for further consideration. On February 12, 2025 SANDAG presented the Final VA Study Report and the five options that will be presented to SANDAG Board of Directors for consideration to advance to environmental review. SANDAG subsequently conducted office hours at Solana Beach City Hall on February 13, 2025 between 3pm and 6pm, where SANDAG Staff answered community questions and concerns regarding the VA Study Report and the five options.

This item is for any additional updates to be presented by the City Manager and staff to the City Council and public since SANDAG's presentation and office hours earlier in the month, and to consider any actions for the City Manager to bring forward to the SANDAG Board of Directors meeting on February 28 2025.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The LOSSAN rail corridor is crucial for the regional economy, serving commuters, freight transport, and connecting key ports and military bases. Given the current challenges with the rail alignment through the City of Del Mar, expanding and ensuring reliable future rail services is essential. Additionally, exploring alternatives to the existing rail alignment is necessary to address potential negative impacts.

The Parties involved have raised specific concerns about the project Notice of Preparation. Since the close of the NOP for the project on July 19, 2024, the Primary

**CITY COUNCIL ACTION:**

---

---

Project Stakeholders have worked together to establish mutually agreed-upon expectations and priorities for the project. In response to significant input from the NOP, SANDAG initiated a Value Analysis process to technically evaluate and improve upon the existing alignment alternatives and/or potentially identify new alternatives for further consideration. Participation in the technical exercise included representative from key agency stakeholders include the cities of Carlsbad, Del Mar, Encinitas, San Diego, and Solana Beach, as well as representatives from North County Transit District, and CALTRANS.

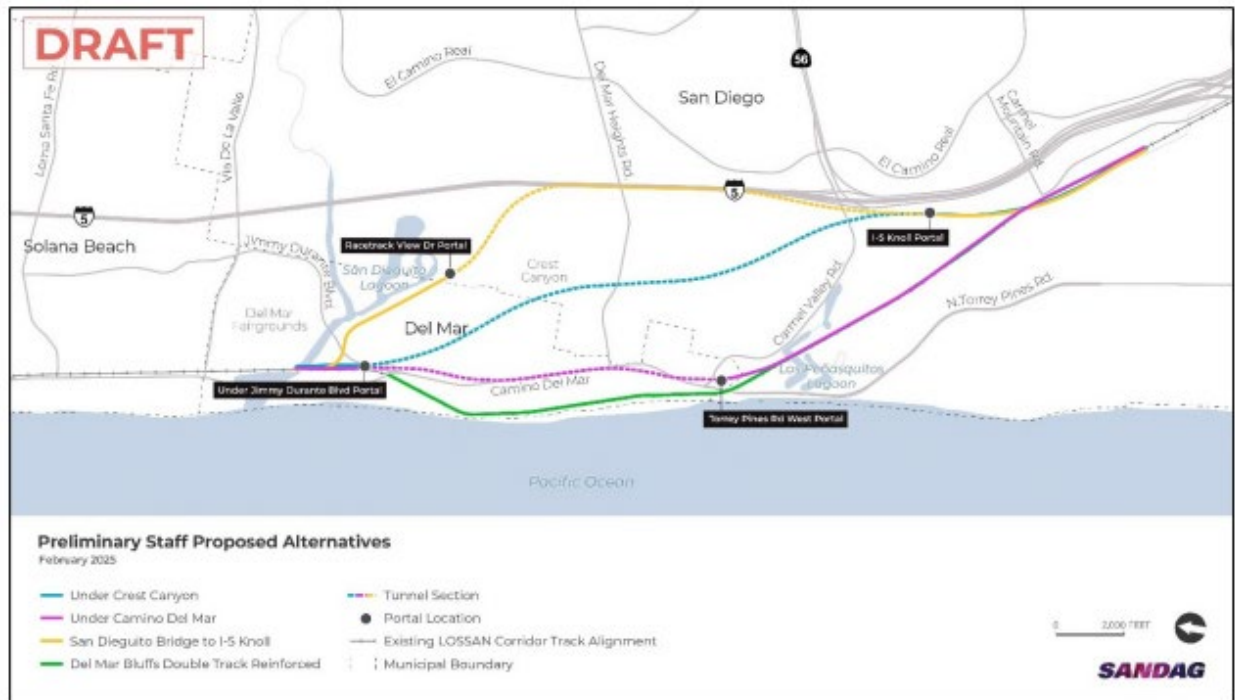
After several meetings with the participating agency stakeholders the Final VA Study Report was released which analyzed 16 proposed alignment alternatives that included the original alternatives contained in the NOP. The Final VA Study Report is available at the following:

[San Diego LOSSAN Rail Realignment Project Final Value Analysis Study Report](#)

After completion of the VA Study Report, SANDAG staff reviewed the conceptual ideas from the VA process, as well as prior studies and public feedback, and issued a press release with additional updates on the project and next steps. The press release included five options that will be presented to SANDAG Board of Directors for consideration to advance to environmental review on February 28, 2025. The options are summarized as follows:

- **Under Crest Canyon (Under Jimmy Durante to I-5 Knoll):** Realigned to minimize subsurface easements by routing below Crest Canyon. Corresponds to VA Study Alternative 6. Similar to NOP Alternative B. [Blue line on Figure 1 map below.](#)
- **Under Camino Del Mar (Under Jimmy Durante to Torrey Pines Road West):** Aligned to minimize subsurface easements by following below Camino del Mar. Corresponds to VA Study Alternative 8. Similar to NOP Alternative C. [Purple line on Figure 1 map below.](#)
- **San Dieguito Bridge to I-5 Knoll:** Aligned to minimize impacts to Del Mar, the Fairgrounds, and San Dieguito Double Track Bridge. No corresponding VA alternative. Similar to NOP Alternative A. [Yellow line on Figure 1 map below.](#)
- **Del Mar Bluffs Double Track Reinforced:** Maintains current alignment, adds double track along the bluffs and through Los Penasquitos Lagoon with bluff reinforcement and more robust seawalls. Corresponds to VA Study Alternative 12. [Green line on Figure 1 map below.](#)
- **No Build:** Includes continuation of major stabilization efforts that would be required to protect the existing single-track alignment.

Figure 1



### **CEQA COMPLIANCE STATEMENT:**

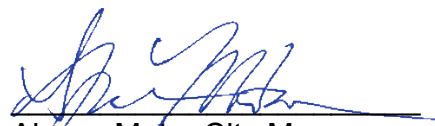
The proposed Resolution is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact as it relates to this Resolution.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council receive additional LOSSAN Rail Realignment information and consider providing actions for the City Manager to bring forward to the SANDAG Board of Directors.

  
Alyssa Muto, City Manager