

**DRAFT**

February 22, 2021

Mr. Brian Balderrama  
Senior Director of Regional Rail  
Metro  
One Gateway Plaza, MS 99-17-2  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: The Noise and Vibration Study Technical Draft Report

Dear Mr. Balderrama,

Thank you for taking the time to answer questions regarding the Noise and Vibration Study at our Elysian Valley Riverside NC meeting on 2/10/21. We have taken the time to review and discuss the CMF Noise and Vibration Study Technical Draft Report that was made available for comments and review online at [www.MetroCMFStudy.com](http://www.MetroCMFStudy.com).

As stated in the report, Elysian Valley along with Cypress Park are the two main communities that are greatly impacted by the noise and vibrations that are originating from the Metrolink Central Maintenance Facility on San Fernando Rd. Both of our communities did not have an opportunity to understand how the noise pollution levels above 75 dBA would greatly impact our health and well being back when the Southern Ca Regional Rail Authority began the CMF operations in 1991. The use of the facility was codified in a 1992 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles County of Transportation Commission(Metro). No Environmental Impact Reports were ever created or required prior to when this change was made to become a service facility for Metrolink.

The raw Data for this Study is a first step to understanding that we must commit to do better for our communities and for the future partnership of our co-existence. Significant public health benefits can be achieved by integrating innovations to reduce the environmental noise levels and the frequency of the exposures.

The accuracy of the report is in question as many factors that affect the noise level are not noted correctly. The Summer Heat vs. The Fall's cooler temperatures are very significant variances. Noise pollution levels in a 90 degree weather day on Oct. 14, 2020 are noted to be 3 dBA to 11 dBA higher. Another major factor is that this study was while most residents were advised to follow COVID-19 safeguards and "Safer at Home" measures as a result up to 90% ridership decline was observed at its lowest point. What is the new normal? Metrolink has temporarily reduced its service by 30% to account for the decline in ridership and also to accelerate maintenance and rehabilitation activities.

The CMF is one of two service, inspection, and repair facilities in the Metrolink System. The other facility is the Eastern Maintenance Facility (EMF) in Colton and is the only other service station that includes servicing and fueling, but heavy duty repairs are only done at the CMF in our community. In addition Metrolink stores trains overnight at Lancaster, East Ventura, Moorpark, Riverside, Perris Valley and Stuart Mesa for early morning service, but none of these locations can fuel locomotives. The CMF facility in proximity to Downtown Los Angeles is the heart of Metrolink as it stands.

The noise levels reported for Elysian Valley in the study ranged from 52 dBA to 72 dBA during the cool days of Oct. 27, to Nov. 6, 2020. In comparison, noise levels for Cypress Park ranged from 45 - 89 dBA for the same 10 days measured. The U.S. EPA recommends an average of 24-hr exposure limit of 55 dBA to protect the public from all adverse effects on health and welfare in residential areas (U.S.EPA 1974). The U.S. EPA recommends a second exposure limit of 70 dBA to prevent hearing loss (U.S. EPA 1974). The 70 dBA limit considers daytime and nighttime exposures to be equally hazardous to hearing. The U.S. EPA recommendations adopted in 1974 are mirrored by the World Health Organization (WHO) (Berglund et al. 1999).

Based on the information from the Noise and Vibration study, it has prompted our community stakeholders to advocate for more action to reduce and limit the noise pollution coming from the Metrolink CMF. As part of the Elysian Valley Riverside NC, we are committed to support and expand our involvement to make that change as we will continue to identify opportunities and make recommendations to lower noise exposures and ultimately improve public health while recognizing that behavioral change is the first step. Famous quote, "To know and not to do is to not yet know". We are confident that changes on protocols during the routine service rendered at the CMF will make the most impact. Our State and Local government can facilitate change if needed by enacting regulation on sources of noise not already regulated, given these considerations, the most cost effective measures will be to alter the built and practices within the facility. Metrolink's service protocols such as the Plug-in-Program and the code to reduce Noise Pollution are already a meaningful start for change.

Sincerely,

Maria E Barboza  
Elysian Valley Riverside NC Board Member