

## JOB DESCRIPTION

**Job Title:** Principal Engineer  
**Working Title:** Principal Engineer, Capital and Third-Party Construction  
**FLSA Status:** Exempt  
**Salary Grade:** 11A

### PURPOSE OF POSITION

The Principal Engineer supports the Capital and Third-Party Construction project program, which includes both the Southern California Optimized Rail Expansion (SCORE) project portfolio throughout the construction and testing/commissioning phases, and the third-party-owned projects being constructed by Member Agencies, Cities, Caltrans, and other entities on and around the railroad. Capital and Third-Party projects may include construction of new main track, sidings and line extensions, signal and communication system improvements, grade separations, grade crossing improvements, stations and platforms, underpasses, overbridges, facilities, maintenance yards, miscellaneous structures, utilities, drainage, and general civil groundwork

### DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This job description is not part of a job series.

### SUPERVISION EXERCISED AND RECEIVED

- Receives general oversight from director or executive level roles.
- Responsible for supervising and monitoring performance for a group of employees.

### ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

*The duties listed below are intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed and are not to be interpreted as an exhaustive list of responsibilities.*

- Serve as Project Manager (PM) on the most complex, high monetary value SCORE Program Capital projects and Third-Party projects under the oversight of the Director, Capital Construction.
- Proactively manage scope, contractual compliance, budget, schedule, and assurance of functional quality, internal and external impacts, and ensure projects are constructed safely with no or minimal impacts to railroad operations.
- Supervise and direct Construction Management staff for Capital construction projects to ensure contractor compliance with contractual obligations, resolution of construction issues, performance to schedule, budget, and specified standards, and timely provision of Work Plans, invoices, schedule updates, and Contract Change Orders.
- Uphold Metrolink and statutory operational safety requirements, interests, standards, procedures, and criteria throughout project construction, testing, commissioning, and integration into the Metrolink network.
- Develop strong, supportive, communicative, and cooperative relationships with Project Owners, Construction Management teams, and contractors to ensure the successful delivery of Third-Party projects while upholding Metrolink requirements and obligations.
- Coordinate efficiently, effectively, and timely Work Window requirements and Positive Train Control (PTC) Subdivision file modifications with internal Operations and PTC departments and Third parties or



contractors.

- Work closely with Public Relations and Communications internal teams to communicate work windows, impacts to service plans, or impacts to the public and Metrolink riders.
- Schedule and oversee the distribution of Third-Party projects to supervised staff and supporting consultant PMs. Oversee staff management and implementation of projects, provide guidance and advice, support to the resolution of issues, develop staff into experienced Project Managers and provide training and learning opportunities.
- Manage SCRRA's Project Management (PM), Construction Management (CM) consultant contracts, job order contracts, construction contracts, or other necessary contracts for assigned projects.
- Coordinate closely with the Principal Engineer – Design and Construction for projects that are at 65% design completion and beyond to ensure a seamless transition from the design phase to the construction phase.
- Draft Construction and Maintenance Agreements with Third Parties for all projects toward the end of in the design phase, negotiate scopes, roles, services, and appropriate budgets with project owners.
- Manage consultant contracts, contract task orders, schedule, cost, and scope.
- Provide oversight for the work of consultants and contractors.
- Represent the Authority at public and joint department meetings; make presentations to groups, including the Board of Directors.
- Plan, manage, and direct the work of staff and consultants; effectively supervising, coaching, and training.
- The responsibilities outlined above are representative of the role but not exhaustive. Additional duties may be assigned as needed, and reasonable accommodations will be provided to qualified individuals with disabilities in accordance with applicable laws.

## MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

### Education and Experience

- Bachelor's Degree in Engineering, Construction Management, Project Management or a closely related field.
- A minimum of eight (8) years of total experience with a Bachelor's Degree or 6 (six) years of experience with a Masters degree, which includes the following:
  - progressively increasing experience in construction, or engineering. Experience must include at least three (3) years of contract management of engineering or construction projects and two years of experience managing the work of staff or consultants.
  - A minimum three (3) years' construction experience with a Commuter/Passenger or Class 1 Freight Railroad or as a consultant or contractor working on long term assignments involving Commuter/Passenger or Class 1 Freight Railroad Projects.
  - Years of experience can be counted concurrently.
- A combination of training, education and/or experience that provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities may be considered when determining minimum qualifications. Advanced relevant coursework may also substitute for a portion of the required experience.
- California Professional Engineers License (Civil), or ability to obtain the license within 12 months
- Must pass tests for Roadway Worker Protection (RWP) and Railroad General Code of Operating Rules (GCOR) within 6 months.
- A valid Class "C" California driver's license with a satisfactory driving record of no more than two moving violations and no DUIs within the last three years



## Preferred Qualifications

None

## Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

### Knowledge of:

- Principles and practices of civil engineering, including design, construction, and maintenance requirements in an active railroad environment.
- Modern techniques, methods, procedures, and practices of project management & construction management.
- Construction materials, methods, and practices.
- Railroad operational safety.
- Methods and techniques of engineering plan review and approval.
- Principles of supervision.
- Pertinent Federal, State, and local laws, codes, and regulations.

### Skilled In:

- Excellent communication, interpersonal, decision-making, and problem-solving skills.
- Use of Microsoft Office

### Ability to:

- To work independently, make decisions, act on behalf of Metrolink in a senior role to uphold the Authority's best interests with minimal oversight and direction.
- Work independently, manage multiple concurrent engineering tasks or projects, both in the office and in the field effectively, prioritize responsibilities to ensure successful delivery of projects.
- Foster a teamwork environment. Support and guide others, offer benefit of experience and lessons learnt.
- Flexibility and willingness to assist other teams in the Department as needs arise.
- Work nights and/or weekends, as necessary, for railroad construction projects.
- Supervise, direct, and coordinate the work of professional engineering staff.
- Read and interpret various engineering designs, plans, and specifications.
- Ensure project conformance with Metrolink Engineering Standards.
- Resolve construction disputes between consultants, contractors, and the public.
- Negotiate, prepare, and manage contracts.
- Establish and maintain effective relationships with those contacted in the course of work.
- Prepare written technical reports, estimates, and construction and cost records.
- Read for comprehension and to present clear and concise reports, verbally and in writing.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with public officials, employees, consultants, contractors, and the public.
- Analyze complex and diverse issues and prioritize multiple tasks and competing demands to optimize use of available resources.
- Represent SCRRRA and make presentations to the Board of Directors, executives, and the public.



## PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Transition between a stationary position at a desk or work location and move about Metrolink facilities or other work site locations
- Operate tools to perform the duties of the position, such as computers, office equipment, and work-related machinery
- Transport equipment or boxes up to 25 lbs
- Exchange ideas by means of communication
- Visual acuity to detect, identify, and observe employees or train movement and any barriers to movement when working on or near railroad tracks
- Hear and perceive the nature of sounds when working on or near railroad tracks
- Balance, ascend/descend, climb, kneel, stoop, bend, crouch, or crawl within assigned working conditions and or locations

## Working Conditions

Position requires work in a normal office environment with little exposure to excessive noise, dust, or temperature. Work may also be conducted in outdoor environments, at construction sites, Railroad Track and Right-of-Way environments, and warehouse environments, with possible exposure to individuals who are hostile or irate, moving mechanical parts, and loud noises (85+ decibels, such as heavy trucks, construction, etc.)

*Southern California Regional Rail Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Authority will provide reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities and encourages both prospective and current employees to discuss potential accommodations with the employer.*

Last Updated: January 2026

