

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

427 B



**FROM:** TLMA - Transportation Department

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
August 14, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Resolution No. 2013-079 Notice of Intention for the Closure of Gernert Road/Poarch Road at the At-Grade Crossing of the Perris Valley Rail Line to Non-Emergency Traffic in the Box Springs Mountain Area

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors adopt Resolution No. 2013-079, Notice of Intention for the closure of Gernert Road/Poarch Road at the at-grade crossing of the Perris Valley Rail Line to non-emergency traffic in the Box Springs Mountain Area - Fifth Supervisorial District/First Supervisorial District, and set September 10, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. to hold a Public Hearing on this matter.

**BACKGROUND:** The Riverside County Transportation Commission's (RCTC) Perris Valley Line Project (PVL) is a 24-mile extension of the Metrolink 91 Line service, which currently provides service from Riverside to downtown Los Angeles and Orange County. The PVL would bring commuter rail service from downtown Riverside to the City of Perris; thus, linking several communities to major employment centers and to the Southern California commuter rail network. The County of Riverside (County), as a member of RCTC, frequently works in concert and cooperatively with the Commission to further the overall goals of RCTC and the County to improve and provide services and facilities to the public.

(Continued on Page 2)

Juan C. Perez  
Director of Transportation and Land Management

WJH  
Attachments: Resolution No.2013-079  
Exhibit "A"

REVIEWED BY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

DATE 8/15/13 AWJ  
Tina Grande  
Departmental Concurrence

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL  
BY: [Signature] 8/15/13  
DATE  
MARSHAL VICTOR

Policy

Consent

Dept's Recomm.:  
Per Exec. Ofc.:

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

RE: Resolution No. 2013-079 Notice of Intention for the Closure of Gernert Road/Poarch Road at the At-Grade Crossing of the Perris Valley Rail Line to Non-Emergency Traffic in the Box Springs Mountain Area

August 14, 2013

Page 2 of 2

**BACKGROUND: (Continued from Page 1)**

RCTC certified the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Perris Valley Rail Line on July 25, 2011. The National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) Final Supplemental Environmental Assessment (FSEA) was approved and the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was issued on May 24, 2012. The EIR identified the closure of the Poarch Road Crossing to full public access, keeping it open to emergency access via a locked gate that the Fire Department would open. RCTC did not receive public comments opposing the planned closure of the Poarch Road Crossing in their EIR.

RCTC has sought assistance from the County to implement the PVL project by requesting the closure of the Gernert Road/Poarch Road at-grade crossing (Crossing), consistent with the approved EIR due to the safety deficiencies and concerns identified by RCTC during their design process. Due to the importance of ensuring the health, welfare, and safety to the public, the County agrees with the need to close the Crossing. The Crossing is located adjacent to Watkins Drive, directly opposite the northbound I-215 on-ramp. Poarch Road is an unimproved dirt road that provides access to a small, rural residential area of about 10 homes on the hillside northeast of the Perris Valley Line. The residents may choose to use the Crossing to gain direct access to Watkins Drive and the I-215 Freeway. It connects to Gernert Road, a County-maintained dirt road that links to Morton Road, which borders Moreno Valley. Gernert Road is used by some peak-hour commuter traffic by-passing a portion of I-215 when it is congested. The primary paved access route for this area, for both the local residents and commuters, is via Gernert Road to Morton Road to Box Springs Road. Box Springs Road is a full-access interchange on the I-215, approximately two miles from the Crossing.

The Crossing was found by RCTC to have several key deficiencies that would need to be addressed in order to be kept open to non-emergency vehicular traffic with Metrolink train usage. Maintaining full public access would have required substantial improvements to the street grades of Poarch Road and Watkins Drive, crossing equipment upgrades, and signalization of the intersection of Poarch Road and Watkins Drive, which were not deemed feasible given the cost and physical constraints. Any improvements that would need to be made to the Crossing are governed by several stringent federal and state safety standards applicable to each part of the design of the Perris Valley Rail Line.

The closure of Gernert Road/Poarch Road will become effective at such future time when construction begins on this section of the Perris Valley Line. RCTC has agreed, through the settlement of their lawsuit on the PVL, to consider using boulders and non-chain link fencing for the locked gates, subject to Public Utility Commission approval or modification, and to not initiate the re-opening of the Poarch Road crossing to full public access in the future.

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3 **RESOLUTION NO 2013-079**

4 NOTICE OF INTENTION FOR THE CLOSURE OF GERNERT ROAD/POARCH  
5 ROAD AT THE AT-GRADE CROSSING OF THE PERRIS VALLEY RAIL LINE TO  
6 NON-EMERGENCY TRAFFIC,  
7 IN THE BOX SPRINGS MOUNTAIN AREA.

8  
9 (Fifth Supervisorial District)

10  
11 **BE IT RESOLVED, DETERMINED AND ORDERED** by the Board of  
12 Supervisors of the County of Riverside, State of California, in regular session  
13 assembled on \_\_\_\_\_, 2013, pursuant to Section 942.5 (a) of the  
14 Streets and Highways Code, that it is the intention of this Board to close for the  
15 protection of the public, described as follows:

16  
17 Gernert Road/Poarch Road at the at-grade crossing of the Perris Valley Rail Line  
18 adjacent to Watkins Drive.

19  
20 SEE PLAT ATTACHED HERETO  
21 AS EXHIBIT "A" AND MADE A PART HEREOF

22  
23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a public hearing on this Resolution will be held on  
24 September 10, 2013, at 9:30 a.m. in the meeting room of the Board of Supervisors,  
25 County Administrative Center, Riverside, California, at which time and  
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FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL  
BY: MSL 8/15/13  
MARSHA L. VICTOR DATE

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**RESOLUTION NO. 2013-079**

place the Board will hear and consider the proposal to close Gernert Road/Poarch Road at the at-grade crossing of the Perris Valley Rail Line adjacent to Watkins Drive, and any comments thereto.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, DETERMINED AND ORDERED** that the Clerk of the Board is directed to cause this Resolution to be published pursuant to Section 8322(a) and the Transportation Director shall cause notice of hearing to be posted pursuant to Section 8323 of the Streets and Highways Code.

WJH SU1020

# VICINITY MAP



N.T.S.

T. 2S, R. 4W  
SECTION 33  
S.B.M.

**CITY OF RIVERSIDE**

POARCH ROAD

AREA OF CLOSURE

GERNERT ROAD

GERNERT RD S5145

SYCAMORE CANYON BLVD

CENTRAL AVE

LOCHMOOR DR

WEST POINT DR M5554

HARVARD WAY M5561

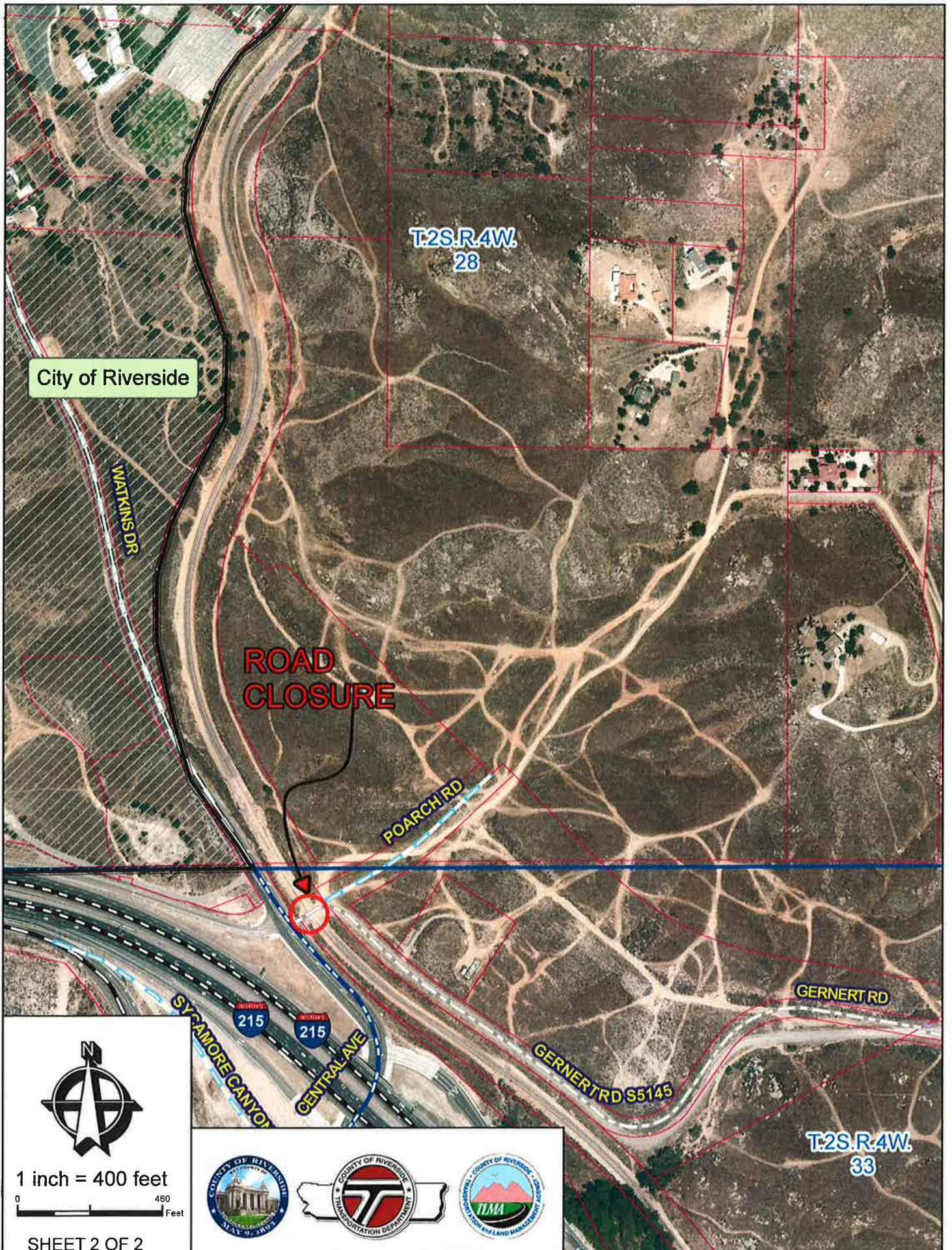
SYCAMORE CANYON BLVD S5597A

KIRK MICHAEL CIR

JAMESON CT

SHEET 1 OF 1 N DR

LOCHMOOR DR



City of Riverside

WATKINS DR

T.2S.R.4W.  
28

ROAD  
CLOSURE

POARCH RD

GERNERT RD

GERNERT RD S5145

SYCAMORE CANYON

CENTRAL AVE

T.2S.R.4W.  
33



1 inch = 400 feet



SHEET 2 OF 2



City of Riverside

T.2S.R.4W.  
28

T.2S.R.4W.  
27

**ROAD  
CLOSURE**

WATKINS DR

POARCH RD

GERNERT RD S5145

GERNERT RD S5145

CENTRAL AVE

215

215

HARVARD WAY M5561

T.2S.R.4W.  
33

215

City of  
Moreno  
Valley

T.2S.R.4W.  
34

City of Riverside

SYCAMORE CANYON BLVD

MORTON RD S5267

BOX SPRINGS RD S5218



1 inch = 800 feet



SHEET 1 OF 2



**SIDE**

