PROJECT CASE STUDY / PUBLIC WORKS · ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

CV Link Multi-Modal Transportation Corridor — Segment 1

Coachella Valley, California · Coachella Valley Association of Governments



CV Link in service near La Quinta — the powder-coated cable railing on the right is the barrier between the path and the Whitewater River channel.

OWNER
Coachella Valley Association of Governments

PRIME CONTRACTOR
Ames Construction, Inc.

IN-LINE ROLE
Fence, railing & guardrail subcontractor

AWARDED
October 2020

COMPLETED
2025

DELIVERY
Federally funded · Prevailing wage · Buy America

THE PROJECT

CV Link is a 40-mile transportation and recreation corridor linking eight Coachella Valley cities and the lands of two tribes — one of the largest active-transportation projects in California. For most of its length it runs along the top edge of the Whitewater River channel.

That edge is a concrete-lined flood-control slope with a sheer drop. The railing along it is not trim. It is the only thing standing between a family on bikes and the bottom of the channel. Ames Construction gave that scope to In-Line on Segment 1 — a multi-million dollar subcontract covering more than a mile and a half of engineered railing and fence through the open desert.

WHY IT WAS HARD

Life safety, every linear foot

Every post, every base plate, every cable tension detail on this job carries a life-safety load. There is no cosmetic portion of this railing. It gets built to the drawing, anchored to the calculation, and inspected — or it does not go in.

The design changed underneath the contract, repeatedly

The railing system was still being decided long after In-Line was under contract. Rather than sit on the original scope and wait, In-Line engineered and priced every alternative the owner wanted to see — 4-line, 6-line, 7-line, 10-line and 15-line cable configurations, barrier-rail and bumper-rail alternates, each with its own shop drawings and cost basis — so CVAG and Ames could compare constructability and price side by side and decide once. **Thirty-eight change orders** moved across this job. In-Line tracked, priced, and documented all of them.

Buy America, down to the cable clip

Federal funding meant every component had to be domestically produced and certified. The cable system alone took **11,400 linear feet of 1/4" 7×19 Type 316 stainless wire rope**, plus 252 turnbuckles, 252 shouldered eye bolts, 252 thimbles and 504 clips — all specified domestic stainless. In-Line sourced and documented every piece of it.

The Sonoran Desert, on a live public corridor

Summer heat, blowing sand, and installation adjacent to open roadways and active flood-control infrastructure at Avenue 52, Avenue 54, Washington Street, Dillon Avenue, Adams Street and the La Quinta Channel bridge — across multiple jurisdictions, each with its own permits and dig-alert requirements.

WHAT IN-LINE DELIVERED

- **The path and bridge railing systems** — the primary scope, thousands of linear feet of engineered metal railing along the channel edge and across bridge structures.
- **The stainless cable rail system**, fabricated and tensioned, including the final 6-strand and 10-strand configurations selected after value engineering — 1,899 LF and 563 LF.
- **Vinyl-clad chain link fence and gates** at Avenue 52, Dillon Avenue and the connector locations, plus metal beam guardrail, pipe gates, tubular gates and stair railing.
- **The redesign itself.** When CVAG value-engineered the railing mid-construction, In-Line developed and priced each option, produced the shop drawings, re-sequenced procurement and fabrication around the approved design — and wrote a net credit of more than **$1.5 million back to the owner** in a single change order. Most subs would have found a way to make that churn a claim. In-Line made it a credit.
- **Federal compliance across the whole job** — certified payroll, federal wage decisions, a federal training program, submittals and shop drawings spanning fifteen specification sections, and dig-alert coordination across every jurisdiction the corridor touches.

SCOPE AT A GLANCE

Metal railing — path | **Metal railing — bridge** | **Stainless cable railing**

Powder-coated railing | **Vinyl-clad chain link fence** | **Chain link gates**

Metal beam guardrail | **Pipe & tubular gates** | **Stair railing**

THE RESULT

$1.5M
Credited back to the owner

11,400 LF
Domestic 316 stainless cable

38
Change orders tracked and priced

Segment 1 is complete and open. The railing In-Line built is the continuous safety edge between the public and the Whitewater River channel — and it is warranted against defects in workmanship and material, backed by In-Line and its surety. Specification sections delivered: **05 50 00** Metal Fabrications · **05 52 00** Handrails and Railing · **32 31 13** Chain Link Fences and Gates.

Four years. A design that would not hold still. And In-Line handed the owner a million and a half dollars back. That is not a vendor. That is a partner you can put on the exposed scope and forget about.

WHY PRIMES KEEP CALLING IN-LINE

Since 1990, In-Line has been the fence and railing subcontractor Southern California's largest primes hand their most exposed scope to. Not because we are the cheapest number on bid day — because we are the one line item they never have to think about again.

- **We engineer the alternatives, not just the bid.** When an owner wants to see five railing designs, they get five, priced and drawn — so the decision happens once instead of five times.
- **We price changes straight.** Documented, defensible to the owner and the auditor. When we owe a credit back, we write the credit.
- **Federal-aid work is our home ground.** Certified payroll, wage decisions, DBE, apprentice dispatch, Buy America sourcing, skilled workforce — the paperwork that sinks other subs is routine here.
- **We build safety-critical scope.** Channel edges, bridge decks, rail corridors, school campuses. If the barrier failing means someone gets hurt, that is the work we are built for.
- **We are certified, bonded, signatory, and safe.** DBE · SBE · SLBE · SB · HUBZone · SBA 8(a). Union affiliated, Local 89 & Local 12. CSLB C-13, C-51, C-32. Bonded through Old Republic Surety, rated A+ XV. **EMR 0.68.**

Thirty-five years. Public works, utilities, school districts, and government agencies across Southern California. One standard.

HAVE A PROJECT LIKE THIS?

In-Line Fence & Railing has built fence, railing, and guardrail for Southern California public works, utilities, school districts, and government agencies since 1990.

Call (760) 789-0282 | **Request an Estimate**

In-Line Fence & Railing Co., Inc. · Ramona, California

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