



## Amtrak Surfliner

**PROJECT TEAM:** Cesar Vergara, Chief Designer, Amtrak (1990-2000)  
Amtrak Rail Design Center, Blair Slaughter, David Carroll, John Cabry  
Alstom Engineering (Hornell, NY)  
EMDiesels (LaGrange, IL)

**CLIENT:** Amtrak West

**COMPLETION DATE:** 1997

**AWARDS:** 1996 Brunel Award (Locomotive)

Amtrak West procured a fleet of California Car bi-level coaches from Alstom for operation on its San Diego-San Luis Obispo *Surfliner* route and commissioned the Amtrak Rail Design Center, under the direction of CESAR VERGARA to present a design for the trainsets. Amtrak West wanted the design guided by the extraordinary landscapes the service traverses.

The car interiors feature warm tones of the beaches and vegetation with a pattern uniquely suited for the service. To design the fleet's café car, CESAR VERGARA and his team constructed a full scale mock up of the café area in the Los Angeles offices of Amtrak West. The mock up was used to evaluate ADA accessibility and to gain input from onboard service personnel in configuring the layout.

A color scheme for the fleet's F59 locomotive, originally developed for the proposed for the Las Vegas Talgo service, incorporated an attractive blue matching stripe pattern through the *Surfliner* carfleet that has come to be its signature. A number of flutes along the exterior were removed to allow the placement of the *Surfliner* graphics, which mimic the italicized and extended Helvetica type utilized on *Superliner* and *Viewliner* cars, creating a sense of unity across Amtrak's mid- and long-distance fleet.

The F59 locomotive was awarded the 1998 Brunel award for excellence in railroad industrial design.



