



## **EMD F-59 Locomotive**

**PROJECT TEAM:** Cesar Vergara, Chief Designer, Amtrak (1990-2000)  
Amtrak Design Group  
EMDiesel Engineering (Lagrange, IL)  
Fibertek-Alcoa (Salt Lake City)

**CLIENT:** Amtrak West

**COMPLETION DATE:** 1994

**AWARDS:** Brunel Award

In 1995, Amtrak and the California Department of Transportation sought designs for a new diesel locomotive to power a fleet of bi-level "California cars" being built by Alstom. California had a specific vision for the train and locomotive for its needs. Amtrak was invited to participate as a team member as the future operator of the California service, as well as in anticipation of purchasing its own fleet of F-59 locomotives for its western routes.

The California locomotive, used on the San Diego-San Luis Obispo *Surfliner* service, has a bullet-shaped nose made of FRP and some decorative FRP panels in the Cascades version. These panels and skirting were removed for the Amtrak production units which, designed by CESAR VERGARA, display a uniquely American character that bespeaks power and reliability.

The Amtrak version of the F-59 was awarded the Brunel prize in locomotive design in 1998.



