



Promoting the bicycle for transportation and recreation

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
Jenny Bard
Vice President
Amy Loukonen
Secretary
Bonnie Hogue
Treasurer
Bob Stender

Lynn Deedler
Alex Mallonee
John Murphy

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Eris Weaver

OFFICE:
750 Mendocino Ave Ste 6
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

MAIL:
P.O. Box 3088
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

PHONE:
707-545-0153

EMAIL:
info@BikeSonoma.org

WEB:
www.bikesonoma.org

May 28, 2021

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief of the Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: North Coast Railroad Authority – Abandonment Exemption – in Mendocino, Trinity and Humboldt Counties, CA, AB 1305X.

Dear Ms. Brown:

This comment, on behalf of the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition, is for filing in the above-captioned proceeding. A copy is being served on counsel for North Coast Railroad Authority's attorney, as indicated below.

The Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition supports (a) NCRA's request for a Notice of Exemption for its rail line from MP 139.5 near or at Commercial Street in Willits all the way to Samoa at MP 300.5, Korbel at MP 301.8 and inclusive of the Carlotta Branch to MP 267.72 and NCRA's request for a Notice of Interim Trail Use (NITU) for all of these properties. Due to ground movement and other geological factors, the Eel River Canyon is simply not suitable for a reliable and competitive rail use. The FRA embargoed the line in 1998. The line has only deteriorated since that time. On the other hand, conversion of the line into a trail (in particular, a component of The Great Redwood Trail) will preserve it for the future, facilitate local recreation and tourism, and protect and foster a variety of conservation and environmental values. We request STB to issue an effective NITU for this line as soon as possible.

Please add Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition to the service list as parties in this proceeding. Please note that our email address is info@bikesonoma.org and we consent to email service of pleadings. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,


Eris Weaver, Executive Director

cc. Charles H. Montange
Law Offices of Charles H. Montange
426 NW 162nd St.
Seattle, WA 98177
(by email to c.montange@frontier.com)
Attorney for NCRA