



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
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December 4, 2019

Dr. William Huneke
Director, Office of Economics
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Subject:

Dear Dr. Huneke:

Thank you for approving the previous confidential Waybill Sample data for calendars year 2011 through 2016. I am again writing on behalf of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to request confidential Waybill Sample data for calendar years 2017 and 2018. SCAG is interested in utilizing the data for the continued analysis of southern California regional freight flows; these additional years will extend the analysis time frame to the most current available information.

The justification for use of the data remains the same as the last request, SCAG has recently begun a comprehensive integrated passenger and freight rail study for most of southern California, which is focused on identifying freight and passenger mainline funding strategies for needed capacity and operational improvements. The project's baseline year of analysis is 2019. The economic forecast portion of this study will be relying on multiple sources of information such as historical and forecast data from the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach regarding containerized trade, and historical and forecast employment and other socioeconomic information. The STB Waybill Sample data will provide a critical piece for freight rail flows by commodity types to and out of the region. It is important to have the origin and destination components from the Waybill Sample data in order to distinguish as best as possible between direct intermodal and transloaded rail moves. Having a historical trend will be instrumental in supporting existing and future conditions analysis needs, as well as determining a Base Case for the RTC simulation models runs. We are working directly with Class I rail operators, passenger rail operators and the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. This is a comprehensive systemwide approach of which all key freight and passenger stakeholders are heavily interested in completing.

For our analysis, we are again requesting the full 900 byte confidential Waybill Sample data for years 2017 and 2018, with the following clarifications; this request is strictly for the state of California and this request should not include the unmasked revenue information.

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We understand that there is an administrative fee to cover the cost of obtaining the data and can work with you, as we have in the past, to ensure timely payment. If there are any questions or additional information required, please contact me at strelecki@scag.ca.gov or (213) 236 - 1893.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Strelecki", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scott Strelecki
Senior Goods Movement Planner