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Ms. Allison C. Davis, Director
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
April 10, 2020
Part of
Public Record

April 9th, 2020

RE: DOCKET NO. AB 874 (Sub-No. 1X)
SIERRA NORTHERN RAILWAY - ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION – IN
YOLO COUNTY, CA

Dear Ms. Davis:

I am writing to express support for the Sierra Northern Railway's (SNR) Petition for Exemption seeking approval to abandon a segment of its rail line in Docket No. AB 874 (Sub-No. 1X), per a mutual agreement between SNR and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency.

Flood control for my constituents in Sacramento has been one of my top priorities since I took office in 2005. Sacramento is recognized as one of the most at-risk urban areas from riverine flooding in the country, with more than half a million people, 147,000 structures, and \$70 billion in damageable property at risk.

To address this risk, Congress has authorized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to construct six projects, worth \$4.4 billion. All six are currently under construction or are recently completed. Under Federal law, these projects have State and local cost-share partners: the California State Department of Water Resources, the Central Valley Flood Protection Board and Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA).

In 2018, one of these projects, the American River Watershed Common Features 2016 Project, received \$1,565,750,000 through emergency supplemental appropriations from Congress under the condition that project construction be expedited. The mandate is to complete construction of the project by 2024.

A major component of the American River Watershed, Common Features 2016 Project is to widen the Sacramento Weir and Bypass, allowing more flood flows to be diverted into the bypass system that moves the water safely past the urban areas. A portion of the Sierra Northern Railway corridor is in the Project area needed for the widening the Sacramento Weir and Bypass.

SAFCA, as a non-Federal cost-share partner, is responsible under federal law for providing to the USACE any lands required for construction of the Project, including relocating or removing obstacles in the way of construction. In order to proceed with construction, Sierra Northern Railway and SAFCA entered into a mutual agreement that addresses the Project's real estate needs and fairly compensates the Railroad. This agreement includes Sierra Northern Railway petitioning the Surface Transportation Board to abandon a portion of the railroad corridor and

selling the land, in fee, to SAFCA for the use in the Federal Project to construct the new weir and widened bypass.

The proposed abandonment would provide the safest and most cost effective solution to construction, function, operation and maintenance of critical flood infrastructure necessary to protect Sacramento and would facilitate completion of the project within time constraints.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully request that the petition for abandonment be approved as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doris Matsui". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Doris" and last name "Matsui" clearly distinguishable.

DORIS MATSUI
Member of Congress

Cc:

Mr. Anthony J. LaRocca
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