
From: Assenza, Adam
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 11:09 AM
To: Nancy Ihara
Subject: RE: AB 1305 X Railbanking

Hello Ms. Ihara,

The Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) conducts environmental and historic reviews of abandonment cases filed before the Surface Transportation Board (STB, or Board) to determine if the proposed action would have any negative impact on a variety of resource areas, including but not limited to water quality, habitat, local traffic, and noise. At the end of its review, OEA recommends mitigating conditions that the Board may impose on any decisions granting the requested abandonment authority, if necessary to protect any of those resources.

OEA does not consider whether or not a rail line under consideration for abandonment is railbanked, nor have any role in making that determination. That process is overseen by other offices within the STB.

Please submit your comment on these proceedings electronically using the following form, providing all required information:

<https://prod.stb.gov/proceedings-actions/e-filing/other-filings/>

Thank you,

ADAM ASSENZA

Environmental Protection Specialist (he/him)
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board

From: Nancy Ihara <nancyihara@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 11:36 PM
To: Assenza, Adam <Adam.Assenza@stb.gov>
Subject: AB 1305 X Railbanking

To: Surface Transportation Board
Re: AB 1305 X Railbanking

There is tremendous support for the Great Redwood Trail. I request that the Surface Transportation Board work diligently to complete the railbanking process that will allow this trail to happen. It is my understanding that it is not necessary to wait to confirm the legal status of the two ends of the existing rail line to do this. The proposal to use the existing rail line to transport coal is not feasible. The Eel River Canyon is not stable and will not support coal trains. The Eel River is already compromised by deforestation that has occurred in the past and is threatened by on-going drought conditions. The possibility of a coal train accident along this route is frightening. The proposal is also a huge mistake in light of climate change. We need to be transitioning away from fossil fuels toward renewable energy.

Nancy R. Ihara