

**Resolution No. 2021-169 N.C.S.
of the City of Petaluma, California**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PETALUMA
RESOLUTION OPPOSING COAL TRANSPORT BY RAIL THROUGH THE CITY OF
PETALUMA**

WHEREAS, the North Coast Railroad Company, LLC, based in Wyoming has submitted paperwork to the federal Surface Transportation Board objecting to the Railbanking for the Great Redwood Trail with the intent to purchase the railroad; and

WHEREAS, it has been widely reported that North Coast Railroad Company, LLC, is intending to use the railroad to transport coal, which is mined in other states, across the state of California through Sonoma, Mendocino, Trinity, and Humboldt counties to the Port of Humboldt Bay; and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted a Climate Emergency Framework on January 11, 2021, which set a carbon neutrality goal for 2030 and goals to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions related to transportation and building energy use; and

WHEREAS, coal combustion is a significant contributor to climate change and resulting extreme weather events; and

WHEREAS, millions of tons of coal loaded into tens of thousands of train cars would regularly add to traffic congestion within the City of Petaluma as the railway bisects the City and most of the crosstown connector roadways; and

WHEREAS, adoption of this Resolution is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under the “common sense” exception in CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), as it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Petaluma that the City of Petaluma as follows:

SECTION 1. Finds the above recitals to be true and correct and are incorporated herein as findings of this Resolution.

SECTION 2. That the City Council of the City of Petaluma hereby notifies the Surface Transportation Board of its strong opposition to the North Coast Railroad Company, LLC’s application.

SECTION 3. That the City Council of the City of Petaluma encourages the Surface Transportation Board to grant the request of the North Coast Railroad Authority and/or Great Redwood Trail Agency to railbank its rail line from Willits to Humboldt Bay

Under the power and authority conferred upon this Council by the Charter of said City.

REFERENCE:

I hereby certify the foregoing Resolution was introduced and adopted by the Council of the City of Petaluma at a Regular meeting on the 18th day of October 2021, by the following vote:

Approved as to

DocuSigned by: form:



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City Attorney

AYES:

Mayor Barrett; Barnacle, Fischer; Healy, King, McDonnell, Pocekay

NOES:

None

ABSENT:

None

ABSTAIN:

None

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:



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City Clerk

DocuSigned by:



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Mayor