



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Mr. Bryan Bowker
Regional Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Western Regional Office
2600 North Central Avenue, 4th Floor Mailroom
Phoenix, AZ 85001

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Mr. Bowker:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County,

Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension (PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Sincerely,

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map

Figure 1. Project Vicinity Map

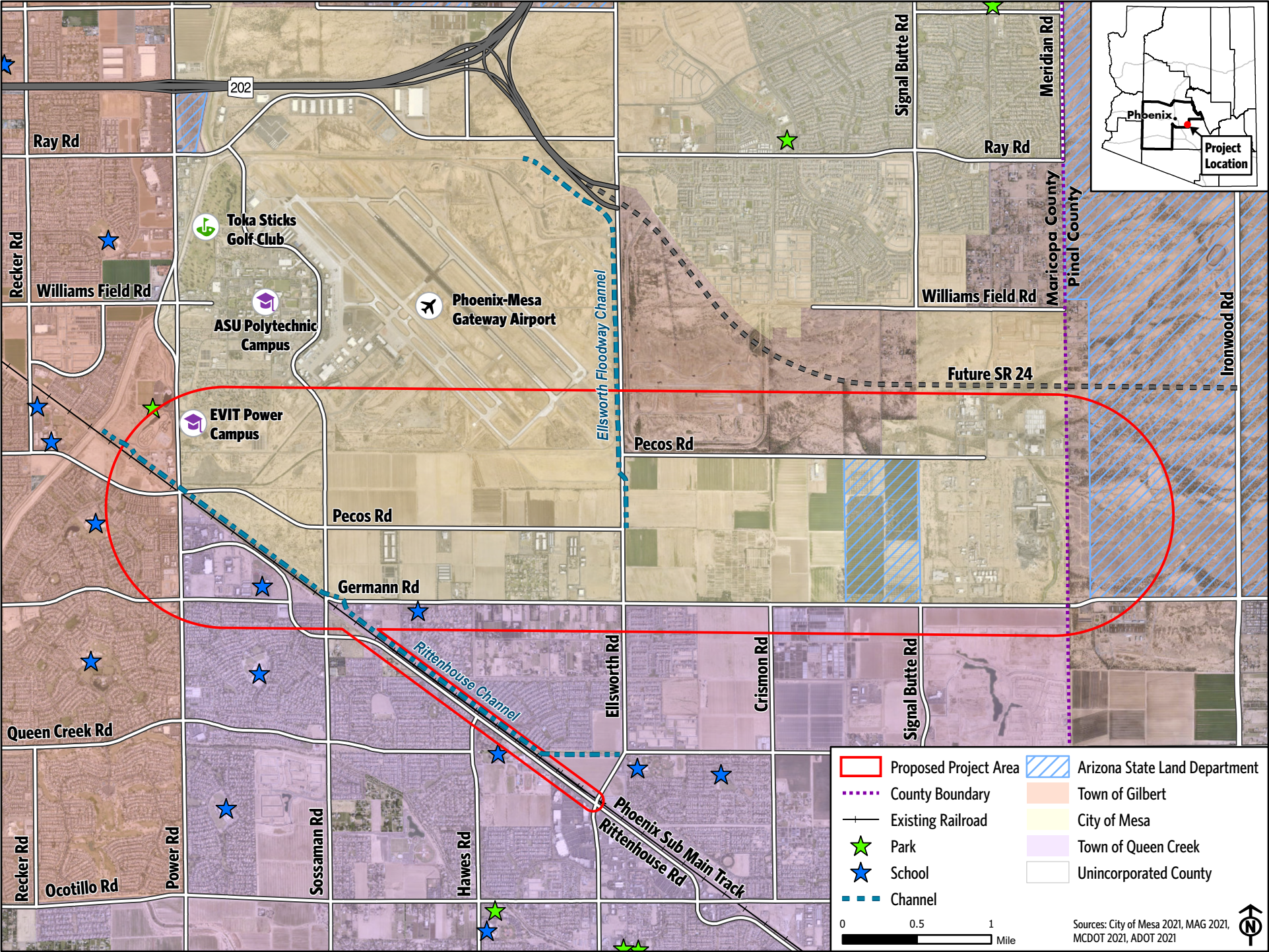
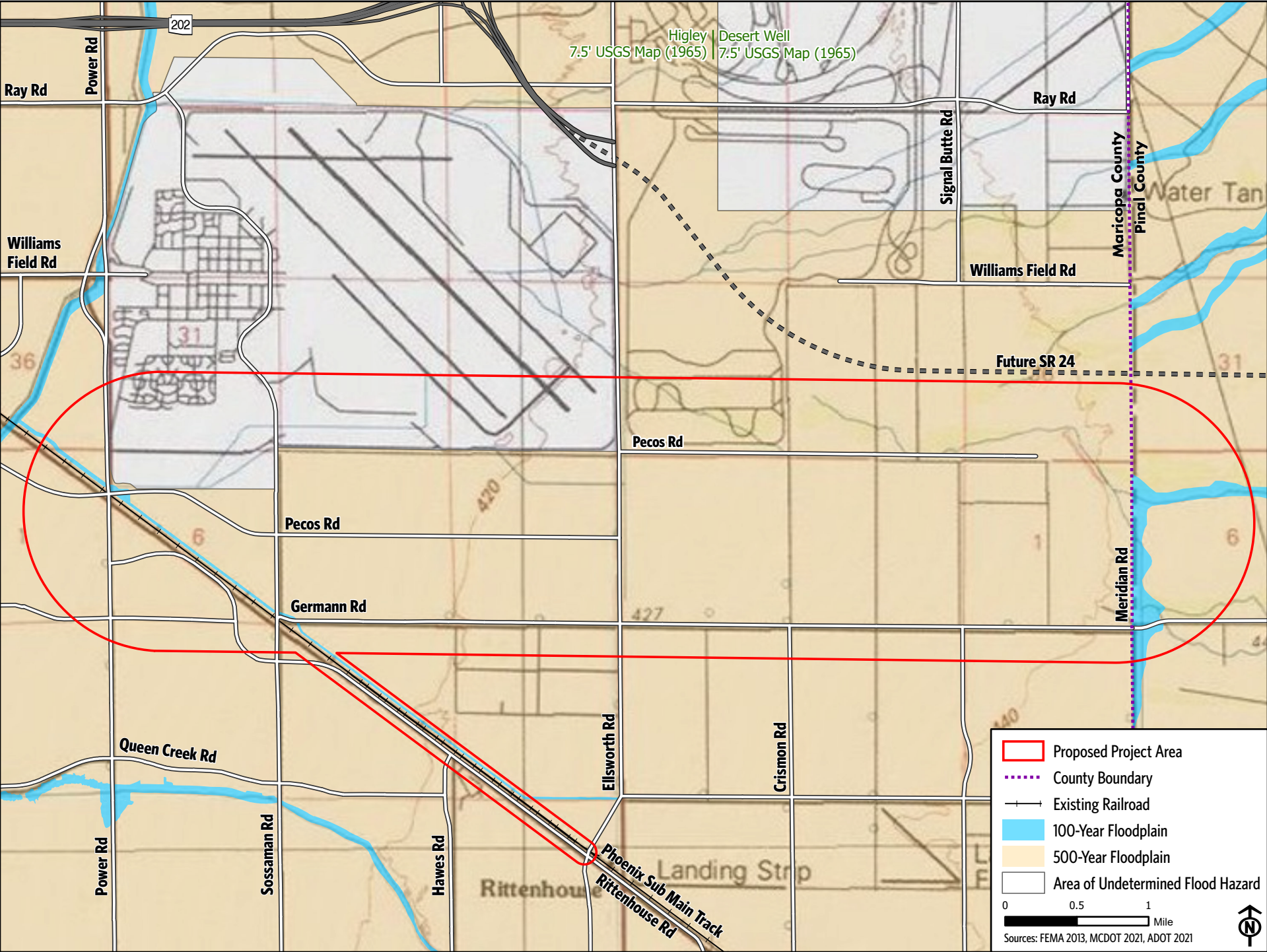


Figure 2. Project Location Map





SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Mr. Mike Williams
Manager
Federal Aviation Administration
Phoenix Airports District Office
3800 North Central Avenue, Suite 1025
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Mr. Williams:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County,

Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension (PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Sincerely,

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Mr. James Jordan
Regional Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
801 I Street, Suite 466
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Mr. Jordan:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1

and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension (PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Ms. Juliana Blackwell
Director
National Geodetic Survey
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, N/NGS12
National Geodetic Survey, SSMC3 #8716
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and
Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental
Consultation

Dear Ms. Blackwell:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension (PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at

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Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Mr. Mike Reynolds
Regional Director
National Park Service
12795 West Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80225

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

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Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Ms. Keisha Tatem
State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
230 North 1st Avenue, Suite 509
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Ms. Tatem:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Ms. Cathy Jerrard
Air Force Base Environmental Coordinator
U.S. Air Force
AFCEC/CIBW, 706 Hangar Road
Rome, NY 13441

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Ms. Jerrard:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

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Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Sincerely,

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map

cc:

Carolyn D'Almeida, Remedial Project Manager, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Wayne Miller, Remedial Project Manager, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Ms. Sallie Diebolt
Arizona Branch Chief
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Arizona-Nevada Area Office
3636 North Central Avenue, Suite 900
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Ms. Diebolt:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County,

Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension (PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Sincerely,

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Ms. Deborah Jordan
Acting Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
US EPA Pacific Southwest, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Ms. Jordan:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County,

Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension (PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map

cc:

Carolyn D'Almeida, Remedial Project Manager



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Ms. Carolyn D'Almeida
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
US EPA Pacific Southwest, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Ms. D'Almeida:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County,

Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension (PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map

cc:

Deborah Jordan, Acting Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Cathy Jerrard, Air Force Base Environmental Coordinator, U.S. Air Force

Wayne Miller, Remedial Project Manager, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Ms. Amy Lueders
Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Southwest Regional Office
P.O. Box 1306
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Ms. Lueders:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County,

Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension (PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map

cc:

Jeff Humphrey, Field Supervisor



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Chairman Robert Miguel
Ak-Chin Indian Community
42507 West Peters and Nall Road
Maricopa, AZ 85138

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Chairman Miguel:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Chairman Timothy L. Nuvangyaoma
Hopi Tribe
P.O. Box 123
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Chairman Nuvangyaoma:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Sincerely,

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Governor Stephen Roe Lewis
Gila River Indian Community
P.O. Box 97
Sacaton, AZ 85147

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Governor Lewis:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Chairman Peter Yucopicio
Pascua Yaqui Tribe
7474 South Camino de Oeste
Tucson, AZ 85746

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Chairman Yucopicio:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

President Martin Harvier
Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community
10005 East Osborn Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85286

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear President Harvier:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Chairman Ned Norris, Jr.
Tohono O'odham Nation
P.O. Box 837
Sells, AZ 85634

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Chairman Norris, Jr.:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Chairman Calvin Johnson
Tonto Apache Tribe
Tonto Apache Reservation #30
Payson, AZ 85541

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Chairman Johnson:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Chairwoman Gwendena Lee Gatewood
White Mountain Apache Tribe
P.O. Box 1150
Whiteriver, AZ 85941

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Chairwoman Gatewood:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Chairman Jon Huey
Yavapai-Apache Nation
2400 West Datsi Street
Camp Verde, AZ 86322

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Chairman Huey:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danielle Gosselin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Danielle" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Gosselin".

Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Mr. Geoffrey D. McCormick
Railroad Safety Supervisor
Arizona Corporation Commission, Safety Division
1300 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Mr. McCormick:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Sincerely,

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Mr. Misael Cabrera
Director
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
1110 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Mr. Cabrera:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Sincerely,

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map

cc:

Wayne Miller, Remedial Project Manager



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Mr. Wayne Miller
Remedial Project Manager
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
1110 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Mr. Miller:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map

cc:

Misael Cabrera, Director, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

Carolyn D'Almeida, Remedial Project Manager, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Cathy Jerrard, Air Force Base Environmental Coordinator, U.S. Air Force



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Mr. Chad Hinderliter
Captain, District 18 – Metro South
Arizona Department of Public Safety
Kutson Station
2610 South 16th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85034

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Mr. Hinderliter:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County,

Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension (PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Sincerely,

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Ms. Joselyn Valero
Central District – Development Engineer
Arizona Department of Transportation
2140 West Hilton, MD E700
Phoenix, AZ 85009

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Ms. Valero:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Sincerely,

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Mr. Ty E. Gray
Director
Arizona Game and Fish Department
5000 West Carefree Highway
Phoenix, AZ 85086

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Mr. Gray:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1

and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension (PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Sincerely,

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Ms. Libby Coyner
Archivist
Arizona State Archives
1901 West Madison Street
Phoenix, AZ 85009

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Ms. Coyner:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Sincerely,

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Mr. Mark Edelman
Director, Planning and Engineering
Arizona State Land Department
1616 West Adams Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Mr. Edelman:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Sincerely,

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Dr. Patrick D. Lyons
Director
Arizona State Museum
The University of Arizona
P.O. Box 210026
Tucson, AZ 85721

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Dr. Lyons:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County,

Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension (PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Ms. Kathryn Leonard
State Historic Preservation Officer
Arizona State Parks, State Historic Preservation Office
1110 West Washington Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Ms. Leonard:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

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Request for Input

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Sincerely,

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Mr. Eric Anderson
Executive Director
Maricopa Association of Governments
302 North 1st Avenue, Suite 300
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Mr. Anderson:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danielle Gosselin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Danielle" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Gosselin".

Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map

cc:

Tim Strow, Director of Transportation Policy and Planning



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Ms. Andrea Robles
Executive Director
Central Arizona Governments
2540 West Apache Trail, Suite 108
Apache Junction, AZ 85120

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Ms. Robles:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Sincerely,

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Ms. Marnie Hunt
District Manager
East Maricopa Natural Resource Conservation District
Chandler Field Office
805 East Warner Road #104
Chandler, AZ 85225

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Ms. Hunt:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County,

Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension (PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Sincerely,

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Ms. Joy Rich
County Manager
Maricopa County
301 West Jefferson Street, 10th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Ms. Rich:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Sincerely,

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map

cc:

Alfred Erives, Division Manager, Department of Transportation

Michael Fulton, Director, Flood Control District

Philip McNeely, Manager, Department of Air Quality

Paul Penzone, Sheriff

Jen Pokorski, Director, Department of Planning and Development

Robert Rowley, Director, Department of Emergency Management



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Mr. Leo Lew
County Manager
Pinal County
135 North Pinal Street
Florence, AZ 85132

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Mr. Lew:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Sincerely,

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map

cc:

Jason Bottjen, Supervisor, Transportation Planning

Lester Chow, Manager, Community Development Department

Charles Kmet, Manager, Emergency Management

Mark Lamb, Sheriff

Stephanie Maack, Manager, Economic Development Department



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Mayor John Giles
City of Mesa
P.O. Box 1466
Mesa, AZ 85211

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Mayor Giles:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

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Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map

cc:

Nana Appiah, Planning Director, Community Development Department

Roman Batista, Police Chief

J.D. Beatty, Senior Economic Development Project Manager, Office of Economic Development

Scott Bouchie, Director, Environmental Management and Sustainability Department

Chris Brady, City Manager

Mary Cameli, Fire Chief

Beth Huning, City Engineer

Frank McRae, Director, Energy Resources Department

Jake West, Director, Water Resources Department

RJ Zeder, Director, Transportation Department



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Mayor Gail Barney
Town of Queen Creek
22358 South Ellsworth Road
Queen Creek, AZ 85142

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Mayor Barney:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension (PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and

logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Danielle Gosselin', written in a cursive style.

Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map
Figure 2 – Project Location Map

cc:

Randy Brice, Police Chief
Brett Burningham, Director, Development Services Department
Doreen Cott, Director, Economic Development Department
Vance Gray, Fire Chief
John Kross, Town Manager
Joe LaFortune, Emergency Management Coordinator, Emergency Services Department
Erica Perez, Recreation Coordinator, Parks and Recreation Department



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Mayor Brigette Peterson
Town of Gilbert
50 East Civic Center Drive
Gilbert, AZ 85296

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Mayor Peterson:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension (PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and

logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Sincerely,

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map

cc:

Dan Henderson, Director, Office of Economic Development

Marshall MacFarlane, Parks and Facilities Manager, Parks and Recreation Department

Kyle Mieras, Director, Development Services Department



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Mr. David Farnsworth
Principal
Ben Franklin High School
18864 East Germann Road
Queen Creek, AZ 85142

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Mr. Farnsworth:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Sincerely,

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Ms. Kathleen Lopez
Principal
Heritage Academy Gateway
19705 East Germann Road
Queen Creek, AZ 85142

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Ms. Lopez:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Sincerely,

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Dr. Dawn Foley
Superintendent
Higley Unified School District
2935 South Recker Road
Gilbert, AZ 85295

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Dr. Foley:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Sincerely,

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Dr. Perry Berry
Superintendent
Queen Creek Unified School District
20217 East Chandler Heights Road
Queen Creek, AZ 85142

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Dr. Berry:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Sincerely,

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Ms. Chrystal Keller
Principal
Canyon State Academy
20061 East Rittenhouse Road
Queen Creek, AZ 85142

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Ms. Keller:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

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If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Mr. Patrick Panetta
Director of Project Management
Arizona State University Real Estate Development
80 East Rio Salado Parkway #702
Tempe, AZ 85281

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Mr. Panetta:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1

and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension (PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Sincerely,

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Ms. Leila Ladani
Director
ASU Polytechnic Campus
650 East Tyler Mall, Room 548
Tempe, AZ 85281

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Ms. Ladani:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Sincerely,

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Dr. Cahit Ozturk
Manager
ASU Bee Lab Annex
6858-2 East Old Pecos Road
Mesa, AZ 85212

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Dr. Ozturk:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Sincerely,

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Dr. Chad Wilson
Superintendent
East Valley Institute of Technology Power Campus
6625 South Power Road
Mesa, AZ 85212

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Dr. Wilson:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Mr. J. Brian O'Neill
Executive Director/CEO
Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport
6033 South Sossaman Road
Mesa, AZ 85212

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map

cc:

Shea Joachim, Director of Business Development



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Mr. Percy Kirk
Southwest Region Manager
Cox Communications
Corporate Headquarters
205-B Peachtree Dunwoody Road NE
Atlanta, GA 30328

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Mr. Kirk:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County,

Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension (PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Mr. David Rousseau
President
Salt River Project
1500 North Mill Avenue
Tempe, AZ 85281

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Mr. Rousseau:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danielle Gosselin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Danielle" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Gosselin".

Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map

cc:

Karla Moran, Senior Project Manager in Economic Development



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Mr. Burt Hatch
General Manager
Queen Creek Irrigation District
P.O. Box 690
Queen Creek, AZ 85142

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Mr. Hatch:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your assistance in preliminarily identifying whether any resources of concern to your agency may be affected by the proposed rail line, particularly if any permits or approvals are required of UP, and welcome any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate. You may submit comments electronically through the Board's website at www.stb.gov by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the left side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file. You may also send your written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for this environmental review, by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. Comments received will be made available to the public on the Board's web site. We respectfully request your response by **January 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a virtual meeting or conference call with OEA, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza by phone at (202) 245-0301 or by email. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Mr. Bryce Hagen
President
Suburban Irrigation District
20633 East Superstition Drive
Queen Creek, AZ 85142

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Mr. Hagen:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County, Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension

(PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

Environmental Review Process

This letter begins the process by which OEA will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed rail line. The process will include the preparation of a draft and final environmental document, which for rail construction proposals is normally an environmental impact statement (EIS), as specified in the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.6(a). Your response to this inquiry will assist OEA in determining if an EIS is appropriate in this case or if, alternatively, an environmental assessment (EA) could be prepared.

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508) and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. § 1105, OEA will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of UP's proposal, including reasonable and feasible alternatives and the no-action alternative. The draft environmental document will be distributed to agencies and the public for review and comment pursuant to the requirements of NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. The NEPA document will set forth the Board's independent environmental review of the build alternatives and the no-build or no-action alternative. The alternatives to be considered in the environmental document may include new alternatives developed by OEA. Our agency's process will conclude with the Board's decision on whether to authorize the proposed rail line. In reaching its decision, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the draft and final environmental documents, and OEA's final recommended environmental mitigation. Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., the third-party contractor for this project, will assist OEA in conducting the environmental review.

Request for Input

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

December 10, 2021

Mr. Jack D. Murray
Acting Regional Manager
Western Area Power Administration
Desert Southwest Region
P.O. Box 6457
Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457

Re: Docket No. FD 36501, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Maricopa County, AZ; Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Dear Mr. Murray:

I am writing to inform you about a forthcoming proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to construct and operate approximately six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. UP intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Before making its decision on whether to grant such authority, the Board must consider the potential environmental impacts of UP's proposal, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, and related environmental laws.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) intends to begin the process of preparing environmental documentation that will analyze the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA will conduct the environmental review in consultation with appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested stakeholders; and the public. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project, request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed rail line, identify permits and approvals that could be required of UP, and identify any other information that would inform OEA's development of the range of alternatives to be considered during the environmental review. The information you provide will also help us determine what type of NEPA document should be prepared.

Project Background

UP intends to request Board authority to construct and operate new industrial lead railroad track that would connect UP's Phoenix Sub main line track in Maricopa County,

Arizona, to industrial properties southeast of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (Figures 1 and 2). This project is referred to as the Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension (PIRATE) project. According to UP, the proposed track would serve the transportation and logistics needs of existing manufacturing and industrial businesses, as well as prospective businesses looking to relocate to the area. Maps of the proposed project area are attached.

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Danielle Gosselin
Acting Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Project Location Map



Agency Contact List

Affiliation	Agency	Contact Name	Position	Mailing Address	Email Address	Phone	Project Applicability
Federal	Bureau of Indian Affairs	Bryan Bowker	Regional Director	Western Regional Office 2600 North Central Avenue, 4th Floor Mailroom Phoenix, AZ 85001	bryan.bowker@bia.gov	602.379.6600	Proximity to Toka Sticks Golf Club, one of the Gila River Indian Community's Indian Trust Assets
	Federal Aviation Administration	Mike Williams	Manager	Phoenix Airports District Office 3800 North Central Avenue, Suite 1025 Phoenix, AZ 85012	Mike.n.williams@faa.gov	602.792.1064	Proximity to Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport
	Federal Railroad Administration	James Jordan	Regional Administrator	801 I Street, Suite 466 Sacramento, CA 95814	James.Jordan@dot.gov	916.498.6547	National rail safety/policy oversight
	National Geodetic Survey	Juliana Blackwell	Director	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, N/NGS12 National Geodetic Survey, SSMC3 #8716 1315 East-West Highway Silver Spring, MD 20910	Juliana.blackwell@noaa.gov	301.713.3242	49 CFR §1105.7(b)(10) ^a
	National Park Service	Mike Reynolds	Regional Director	12795 West Alameda Parkway Denver, CO 80225	mike_reynolds@nps.gov	303.969.2500	49 CFR §1105.7(b)(8)
	Natural Resources Conservation Service	Keisha Tatem	State Conservationist	230 North 1st Avenue, Suite 509 Phoenix, AZ 85003	Keisha.Tatem@usda.gov	602.280.8808	49 CFR §1105.7(b)(9)
	U.S. Air Force	Cathy Jerrard	Air Force Base Environmental Coordinator	AFCEC/CIBW, 706 Hangar Road Rome, NY 13441	catherine.jerrard@us.af.mil	315.356.0810	Potential to affect Williams Air Force Base Superfund site
	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Sallie Diebolt	Arizona Branch Chief	Arizona-Nevada Area Office 3636 North Central Avenue, Suite 900 Phoenix, AZ 85012	Sallie.Diebolt@usace.army.mil	602.230.6900	49 CFR §1105.7(b)(7)
	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Deborah Jordan	Acting Regional Administrator	US EPA Pacific Southwest, Region 9 75 Hawthorne Street San Francisco, CA 94105	jordan.deborah@epa.gov	415.947.8000	49 CFR §1105.7(b)(5)
	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Carolyn D'Almeida	Remedial Project Manager	US EPA Pacific Southwest, Region 9 75 Hawthorne Street San Francisco, CA 94105	dalmeida.carolyn@epa.gov	415.972.3150	Potential to affect Williams Air Force Base Superfund site
	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Amy Lueders	Regional Director	Southwest Regional Office P.O. Box 1306 Albuquerque, NM 87103	RDLueders@fws.gov	505.248.6282	49 CFR §1105.7(b)(6); potential to affect Endangered Species Act species or habitat
	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Jeff Humphrey	Field Supervisor	Arizona Ecological Services Field Office 9829 North 31st Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85051	jeff_humphrey@fws.gov	602.242.0210	Potential to affect Endangered Species Act species or habitat
Tribes (all federally recognized)	Ak-Chin Indian Community	Robert Miguel	Chairman	42507 West Peters and Nall Road Maricopa, AZ 85138	RMiguel@ak-chin.nsn.us	520.568.1000	Section 106 consultation
	Hopi Tribe	Timothy L. Nuvangyaoma	Chairman	P.O. Box 123 Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039	tnuvangyaoma@hopi.nsn.us	928.734.3000	Section 106 consultation
	Gila River Indian Community (Community)	Stephen Roe Lewis	Governor	P.O. Box 97 Sacaton, AZ 85147	executivemail@gric.nsn.us	520.562.6000	Section 106 consultation; the Community holds Indian Trust Assets in the project vicinity
	Pascua Yaqui Tribe	Peter Yucopicio	Chairman	7474 South Camino de Oeste Tucson, AZ 85746	Peter.Yucopicio@pascuayaqui-nsn.gov	520.879.5110	Section 106 consultation

Agency Contact List

Affiliation	Agency	Contact Name	Position	Mailing Address	Email Address	Phone	Project Applicability
Tribes (all federally recognized) (continued)	Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community	Martin Harvier	President	10005 East Osborn Road Scottsdale, AZ 85286	Gary.bohnee@srpmic-nsn.gov	480.362.7400	Section 106 consultation
	Tohono O’odham Nation	Ned Norris, Jr.	Chairman	P.O. Box 837 Sells, AZ 85634	Ned.norris@tonation-nsn.gov	520.383.2028	Section 106 consultation
	Tonto Apache Tribe	Calvin Johnson	Chairman	Tonto Apache Reservation #30 Payson, AZ 85541	cjohnson@tontoapache.org	928.474.5000, x8126	Section 106 consultation
	White Mountain Apache Tribe	Gwendena Lee Gatewood	Chairwoman	P.O. Box 1150 Whiteriver, AZ 85941	gwendena@WMAT.us	928.338.1514	Section 106 consultation
	Yavapai-Apache Nation	Jon Huey	Chairman	2400 West Datsi Street Camp Verde, AZ 86322	mcassadore@yan-tribe.org	928.567.1021	Section 106 consultation
State	Arizona Corporation Commission, Safety Division	Geoffrey D. McCormick	Railroad Safety Supervisor	1300 West Washington Street Phoenix, AZ 85007	gmccormick@azcc.gov	602.542.7772	Oversees the safety of Arizona railroad operations
	Arizona Department of Environmental Quality	Misael Cabrera	Director	1110 West Washington Street Phoenix, AZ 85007	cabrera.misael@azdeq.gov	602.771.2203	49 CFR §1105.7(b)(7)
	Arizona Department of Environmental Quality	Wayne Miller	Remedial Project Manager	1110 West Washington Street Phoenix, AZ 85007	Miller.wayne@azdeq.gov	602.771.4121	Potential to affect Williams Air Force Base Superfund site
	Arizona Department of Public Safety	Chad Hinderliter	Captain, District 18 – Metro South	Kutson Station 2610 South 16th Street Phoenix, AZ 85034	chinderliter@azdps.gov	602.223.2537	Public safety
	Arizona Department of Transportation	Joselyn Valero	Central District – Development Engineer	2140 West Hilton, MD E700 Phoenix, AZ 85009	jvalero@azdot.gov	602.526.3066	Planned alignment of SR 24 would place major traffic interchanges within 1 mile of UPRR’s planned railroad crossings
	Arizona Game and Fish Department	Ty E. Gray	Director	5000 West Carefree Highway Phoenix, AZ 85086	tgray@azgfd.gov	602.942.3000	Potential to affect sensitive species
	Arizona State Archives	Libby Coyner	Archivist	1901 West Madison Street Phoenix, AZ 85009	archives@azlibrary.gov	602.926.3720	49 CFR §1105.7(b)(1)
	Arizona State Land Department (ASLD)	Mark Edelman	Director, Planning and Engineering	1616 West Adams Street Phoenix, AZ 85007	medelman@azland.gov	602.542.6331	Land under ASLD jurisdiction within and adjacent to proposed alignment
	Arizona State Museum	Dr. Patrick D. Lyons	Director	The University of Arizona P.O. Box 210026 Tucson, AZ 85721	plyons@email.arizona.edu	520.621.6281	Section 106 consultation
	Arizona State Parks, State Historic Preservation Office	Kathryn Leonard	State Historic Preservation Officer	1110 West Washington Street, Suite 100 Phoenix, AZ 85007	kleonard@azstateparks.gov	602.542.4009	Section 106 consultation
Regional	Maricopa Association of Governments	Eric Anderson	Executive Director	302 North 1st Avenue, Suite 300 Phoenix, AZ 85003	eanderson@azmag.gov	602.254.6300	Oversees regional planning in greater Maricopa County
	Maricopa Association of Governments	Tim Strow	Director of Transportation Policy and Planning	302 North 1st Avenue, Suite 300 Phoenix, AZ 85003	tstrow@azmag.gov	602.254.6300	Oversees regional planning in greater Maricopa County
	Central Arizona Governments	Andrea Robles	Executive Director	2540 West Apache Trail, Suite 108 Apache Junction, AZ 85120	arobles@cagaz.org	480.474.9300	Oversees regional planning in Pinal County
	East Maricopa Natural Resource Conservation District	Marnie Hunt	District Manager	Chandler Field Office 805 East Warner Road #104 Chandler, AZ 85225	marnie@emnrcd.org	602.620.9148	Location in district boundary

Agency Contact List

Affiliation	Agency	Contact Name	Position	Mailing Address	Email Address	Phone	Project Applicability
Maricopa County	County Manager	Joy Rich	County Manager	301 West Jefferson Street, 10th Floor Phoenix, AZ 85003	CountyManagersOffice@maricopa.gov	602.506.3415	49 CFR §1105.7(b)(4)
	Department of Transportation	Alfred Erives	Division Manager	2901 West Durango Street Phoenix, AZ 85009	Alfred.Erives@maricopa.gov	602.506.8600	Connection and potential impact to county-maintained roads
	Flood Control District	Michael Fulton	Director	2801 West Durango Street Phoenix, AZ 85009	michael.fulton@maricopa.gov	602.506.4708	100-year floodplain associated with Rittenhouse Channel (at western terminus)
	Department of Air Quality	Philip McNeely	Manager	3800 North Central Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85012	philmcneely@mail.maricopa.gov	602.506.6701	Location in Maricopa County and in a nonattainment area for PM ₁₀ and ozone
	Sheriff	Paul Penzone	Sheriff	550 West Jackson Street Phoenix, AZ 85003	N_Gutierrez-Deorta@MCSO.maricopa.gov	602.876.1000	Location in Maricopa County; public safety
	Department of Planning and Development	Jen Pokorski	Director	301 West Jefferson Street Phoenix, AZ 85003	Jen.pokorski@maricopa.gov	602.372.0688	Location in Maricopa County in Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport planning area and Queen Creek Area Plan
	Department of Emergency Management	Robert Rowley	Director	5630 West McDowell Road Phoenix, AZ 85008	robert.rowley@maricopa.gov	602.273.1411	Location in Maricopa County; public safety
Pinal County	County Manager	Leo Lew	County Manager	135 North Pinal Street Florence, AZ 85132	Leo.Lew@pinal.gov	520.866.6212	Proximity to Pinal County
	Transportation Planning	Jason Bottjen	Supervisor	31 North Pinal Street, Building F Florence, AZ 85132	Jason.Bottjen@pinal.gov	520.866.6345	Proximity to Pinal County; potential to affect land use and transportation planning
	Community Development Department	Lester Chow	Manager	31 North Pinal Street, Building F Florence, AZ 85132	Lester.Chow@pinal.gov	520.866.6442	Proximity to Pinal County; potential to affect land use/development
	Emergency Management	Charles Kmet	Manager	31 North Pinal Street, Building F Florence, AZ 85132	Charles.Kmet@pinal.gov	520.866.6415	Proximity to Pinal County; public safety
	Sheriff	Mark Lamb	Sheriff	971 North Jason Lopez Circle, Building C Florence, AZ 85132	Mark.Lamb@pinal.gov	520.866.5111	Proximity to Pinal County; public safety
	Economic Development Department	Stephanie Maack	Manager	P.O. Box 827 Florence, AZ 85132	stephanie.maack@pinal.gov	520.866.6227	Proximity to Pinal County; potential to affect economic development
City of Mesa	Mayor	John Giles	Mayor	PO Box 1466 Mesa, AZ 85211	mayor@mesaaz.gov	480.644.2388	Location in Mesa; potential to affect economic development and land use
	Community Development Department	Nana Appiah	Planning Director	PO Box 1466 Mesa, AZ 85211	nana.appiah@mesaaz.gov	480.644.2385	Location in Mesa within the Gateway Economic Activity Area; classification as an Employment Character Area and Airport Planning Area
	Police Department	Roman Batista	Police Chief	130 North Robson Mesa, AZ 85201	ramon.batista@mesaaz.gov	480.644.2321	Location in Mesa; public safety
	Office of Economic Development	J.D. Beatty	Senior Economic Development Project Manager	PO Box 1466 Mesa, AZ 85211	Jd.beatty@mesaaz.gov	480.644.3854	Location in Mesa; potential to affect economic development
	Environmental Management and Sustainability Department	Scott Bouchie	Director	P.O. Box 1466 Mesa, AZ 85201	scott.bouchie@mesaaz.gov	480.644.2490	Location in Mesa; potential to influence sustainable development and impact air quality and stormwater
	City Manager's Office	Chris Brady	City Manager	PO Box 1466 Mesa, AZ 85211	COMmanager@Mesaaz.gov	480.644.2066	Location in Mesa; potential to affect economic development and land use

Agency Contact List

Affiliation	Agency	Contact Name	Position	Mailing Address	Email Address	Phone	Project Applicability
City of Mesa (continued)	Fire Department	Mary Cameli	Fire Chief	13 West 1st Street Mesa, AZ 85201	mary.cameli@mesaaz.gov	480.644.2101	Location in Mesa; public safety
	Engineering Department	Beth Huning	City Engineer	PO Box 1466 Mesa, AZ 85211	beth.huning@mesaaz.gov	480.644.2512	Location in Mesa; potential conflicts with city-planned projects
	Energy Resources Department	Frank McRae	Director	PO Box 1466 Mesa, AZ 85211	frank.mcrae@mesaaz.gov	480.644.2273	Location in Mesa; potential to affect natural gas lines
	Water Resources Department	Jake West	Director	PO Box 1466 Mesa, AZ 85211	jake.west@mesaaz.gov	480.644.3371	Location in Mesa; potential to affect water or wastewater lines
	Transportation Department	RJ Zeder	Director	PO Box 1466 Mesa, AZ 85211	rj.zeder@mesaaz.gov	480.644.3121	Location in Mesa; potential to affect land use/development and transportation
Town of Queen Creek	Mayor	Gail Barney	Mayor	22358 South Ellsworth Road Queen Creek, AZ 85142	gail.barney@queencreek.org	480.358.3501	Location in Queen Creek; potential indirect or induced growth
	Police Department	Randy Brice	Police Chief	22358 South Ellsworth Road Queen Creek, AZ 85142	Randy.Brice@queencreekaz.gov	602.876.1011	Location in Queen Creek; public safety
	Development Services Department	Brett Burningham	Director	22358 South Ellsworth Road Queen Creek, AZ 85142	Brett.Burningham@queencreek.org	480.358.3901	Location in Queen Creek; potential indirect or induced growth
	Economic Development Department	Doreen Cott	Director	22358 South Ellsworth Road Queen Creek, AZ 85142	doreen.cott@queencreekaz.gov	480.358.3522	Location in Queen Creek; potential indirect or induced growth and effects to economic development
	Fire Department	Vance Gray	Fire Chief	22358 South Ellsworth Road Queen Creek, AZ 85142	Vance.gray@queencreekaz.gov	480.358.3372	Location in Queen Creek; public safety
	Town Manager	John Kross	Town Manager	22358 South Ellsworth Road Queen Creek, AZ 85142	john.kross@queencreekAZ.gov	480.358.3905	Location in Queen Creek; potential indirect or induced growth
	Emergency Services Department	Joe LaFortune	Emergency Management Coordinator	22358 South Ellsworth Road Queen Creek, AZ 85142	joe.lafortune@queencreek.org	480.358.3502	Location in Queen Creek; public safety
	Parks and Recreation Department	Erica Perez	Recreation Coordinator	21802 South Ellsworth Road Queen Creek, AZ 85142	parks.recreation@queencreek.org	480.358.3700	Proximity to planned trails identified in Queen Creek Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan
Town of Gilbert	Mayor	Brigette Peterson	Mayor	50 East Civic Center Drive Gilbert, AZ 85296	Brigette.Peterson@gilbertaz.gov	480.503.6764	Proximity to Gilbert
	Office of Economic Development	Dan Henderson	Director	90 East Civic Center Drive Gilbert, AZ 85296	Dan.Henderson@gilbertaz.gov	480.503.6971	Proximity to Gilbert
	Parks and Recreation Department	Marshall MacFarlane	Parks and Facilities Manager	90 East Civic Center Drive Gilbert, AZ 85296	Marshall.MacFarlane@gilbertaz.gov	480.503.6200	Proximity to Desert Sky Park and Rittenhouse District Park
	Development Services Department	Kyle Mieras	Director	90 East Civic Center Drive Gilbert, AZ 85296	Kyle.Mieras@gilbertaz.gov	480.503.6705	Proximity to Gilbert
Schools	Ben Franklin High School	David Farnsworth	Principal	18864 East Germann Road Queen Creek, AZ 85142	dfarnsworth@bfcsaz.com	480.558.1197	Potential to affect general operations, bus routes, and noise levels
	Heritage Academy Gateway	Kathleen Lopez	Principal	19705 East Germann Road Queen Creek, AZ 85142	klopez@heritageacademyaz.com	480.461.4400	Potential to affect general operations, bus routes, and noise levels
	Higley Unified School District	Dr. Dawn Foley	Superintendent	2935 South Recker Road Gilbert, AZ 85295	superintendent@husd.org	480.279.7000	Potential to affect future plans, general operations, and bus routes
	Queen Creek Unified School District	Perry Berry	Superintendent	20217 East Chandler Heights Road Queen Creek, AZ 85142	pberry@qcusd.org	480.987.5935	Potential to affect future plans, general operations, and bus routes

Agency Contact List

Affiliation	Agency	Contact Name	Position	Mailing Address	Email Address	Phone	Project Applicability
Schools (continued)	Canyon State Academy	Chrystal Keller	Principal	20061 East Rittenhouse Road Queen Creek, AZ 85142	chrystal.keller@rop.com	480.987.2009	Potential to affect general operations, bus routes, and noise levels
	Arizona State University (ASU) Real Estate Development	Patrick Panetta	Director of Project Management	80 East Rio Salado Parkway #702 Tempe, AZ 85281	patrick.panetta@asu.edu	480.965.0900	Proximity to ASU Polytechnic Campus to the north
	ASU Polytechnic Campus	Leila Ladani	Director	650 East Tyler Mall, Room 548 Tempe, AZ 85281	ladani@azu.edu	480.727.9785	Proximity to ASU Polytechnic Campus to the north
	ASU Bee Lab Annex	Cahit Ozturk	Manager	6858-2 East Old Pecos Road Mesa, AZ 85212	Cahit.Ozturk@asu.edu	480.434.9242	Proximity to ASU Bee Lab Annex to the north
	East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT) Power Campus	Dr. Chad Wilson	Superintendent	6625 South Power Road Mesa, AZ 85212	cwilson@evit.com	480.308.4600	Proximity to EVIT Power Campus to the north
Airport	Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport	J. Brian O'Neill	Executive Director/CEO	6033 South Sossaman Road Mesa, AZ 85212	jboneill@gatewayairport.com	480.988.7608	Proximity to Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport
	Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport	Shea Joachim	Director of Business Development	6033 S Sossaman Road Mesa, AZ 85212	sjoachim@phxmesagateway.org	480.988.7605	Proximity to Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport
Utilities	Cox Communications	Percy Kirk	Southwest Region Manager	Corporate Headquarters 205-B Peachtree Dunwoody Road NE Atlanta, GA 30328	percy.kirk@cox.com	678.645.0000	Potential to affect utilities
	Salt River Project (SRP)	David Rousseau	President	1500 North Mill Avenue Tempe, AZ 85281	david.rousseau@srpnet.com	602.236.5900	Location within SRP's electric service area; no SRP irrigation facilities in project area
	Salt River Project	Karla Moran	Senior Project Manager in Economic Development	1500 North Mill Avenue Tempe, AZ 85281	karla.moran@srpnet.com	602.236.5900	Location within SRP's electric service area; no SRP irrigation facilities in project area
	Queen Creek Irrigation District (QCID)	Burt Hatch	General Manager	P.O. Box 690 Queen Creek, AZ 85142	bhqcid@gmail.com	480.987.3002	Location within QCID's service area; potential to affect irrigation facilities
	Suburban Irrigation District (SID)	Bryce Hagen	President	20633 East Superstition Drive Queen Creek, AZ 85142	hagenfarms.bh@gmail.com	562.810.5808	Location within SID's service area; potential to affect irrigation facilities
	Western Area Power Administration (WAPA)	Jack D. Murray	Acting Regional Manager	Desert Southwest Region P.O. Box 6457 Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457	jmurray@wapa.gov	602.605.2525	Location within WAPA's Desert Southwest service region; potential to affect utilities

Notes:

^a The Surface Transportation Board's regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act require that the applicant serve copies of the environmental report to "the State Coastal Zone Management Authority Agency for any state where the proposed activity would affect land or water uses within that State's coastal zone" (49 CFR §1105.7[b][3]). Arizona does not contain any coastal zones; therefore, no Coastal Zone Management Authority is included on this agency contact list.