

From: [Yeargan, Catherine](#)
To: [Jill Kramer](#)
Cc: [Stevens, Karen](#); [Hoth, David](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption (Docket No. FD 36854) – Request for Comment
Date: Friday, February 13, 2026 1:11:05 PM
Attachments: [FD 36854 USFWS 2.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from catherine_yeargan@fws.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Karen Stevens/Jill Kramer:

Thank you for contacting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and providing information about the Surface Transportation Board's proposal to license construction and operation of five miles of new rail line in Matagorda County, Texas.

The Service's Information for Planning and Consultation tool (IPaC, found at <https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/>) is a project planning and mapping tool that streamlines the environmental review process, can be used to help determine if threatened or endangered species occur in your project area(s), and if consultation with the Service is required for your project.

After reviewing the IPAC tool for your project, please contact David Hoth, Assistant Field Supervisor, at david_hoth@fws.gov, if you believe your project requires further coordination with the Service. Thank you for your interest in protecting trust resources, and I hope you have a great day.

Sincerely,
Catherine Yeargan
Field Supervisor
Texas Coastal and Central Plains ESFO
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
17629 El Camino Real # 211
Houston, Texas 77058

From: Jill Kramer <JKramer@parametrix.com>
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2026 10:57 AM
To: Yeargan, Catherine <catherine_yeargan@fws.gov>
Cc: Stevens, Karen <karen.stevens@stb.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption (Docket No. FD 36854) – Request for Comment

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On behalf of the Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA), Parametrix (OEA's third-party contractor) is sending the attached letter to inform you of a proposed rail line construction and operation project near Wadsworth, Texas. OEA is currently gathering information about the project and is requesting your input. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Stevens at 202-245-0304 or by email at Karen.Stevens@stb.gov.

We look forward to hearing from you.



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

February 13, 2026

Catherine Yeargan
Project Leader
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Texas Coastal and Central Plains Ecological Services Field
Office
17630 El Camino Real Suite 212
Houston, Texas 77058

By email at: catherine_yeargan@fws.gov

**RE: Docket No. FD 36854, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and
Operation Exemption – in Matagorda County, Texas; Preliminary
Consultation**

Dear Catherine Yeargan:

Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) is seeking authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate approximately five miles of new rail line in Matagorda County, Texas, near Wadsworth and Bay City (the Line).³ As part of its licensing process, the Board will conduct an environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4370m-11, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 54 U.S.C. § 306108. Pursuant to NEPA, NHPA, and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) will prepare an environmental document that evaluates the Line's potential impacts to the environment and to historic resources.

OEA is writing to notify you of the project and to request information on any environmental resources that may be affected by the construction and operation of the proposed rail line. Your comments will assist us in preparing the appropriate NEPA document for the proposed project.

Project Description

The Line would connect LyondellBasell's existing Matagorda polymer plant in Bay City, Texas, just south of Wadsworth, to UP's Angleton Subdivision, via existing rail lines known as the Celanese Industrial Lead and the Cities Service Track (see enclosed **Location Map**). The Celanese Industrial Lead is an approximately three-mile lead track that connects to the Angleton Subdivision at approximate milepost 277 and is currently used to serve the Celanese facility. The Cities Service Track connects to the Celanese Industrial Lead and runs south, parallel to

³ UP intends to refer to the Line as the Wadsworth Industrial Lead.

Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 2668, to Gilmore Road. The Line would connect to the Cities Service Track at approximately Gilmore Road and run south to the LyondellBasell facility, roughly parallel to FM 2668. As part of the proposed project, UP plans to construct a new western wye connection near the intersection of FM 2668 and FM 3057 to create a western connection from the Cities Services Track to the Celanese Industrial Lead.

UP anticipates operating up to two trains per day over the Line, with one train operating in each direction, seven days per week. According to UP, the Line would provide LyondellBasell with a second competitive rail option; provide long-term benefits to the local economy by making Matagorda County more attractive to future industrial investments along the Line; and reduce traffic disruptions in downtown Bay City, through which current rail traffic is routed and where crew changes and some switching operations occur.

Request for Comments

OEA is requesting any comments that you may have **by March 16, 2026**, so that OEA may begin the process of identifying the appropriate scope of the environmental review for the proposed project. Please make sure to refer to **Docket No. FD 36854** in all correspondence, including electronic filings.

All filings and other submissions can be submitted electronically through the Board's website at <https://www.stb.gov/>. To submit an electronic file response, scroll down to the blue "How to File" box. Select the "E-Filing (recommended)" button. From the E-Filing page, select "Environmental Comments" under "Select your E-Filing Type." Brief comments can be typed in the comment field provided, and lengthier comments can be attached as Word, Adobe Acrobat, or other file formats. You may also send written comments to Karen Stevens, OEA's Project Manager for the environmental review in this proceeding, by mail to:

Karen Stevens
Surface Transportation Board
Docket No. FD 36854
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

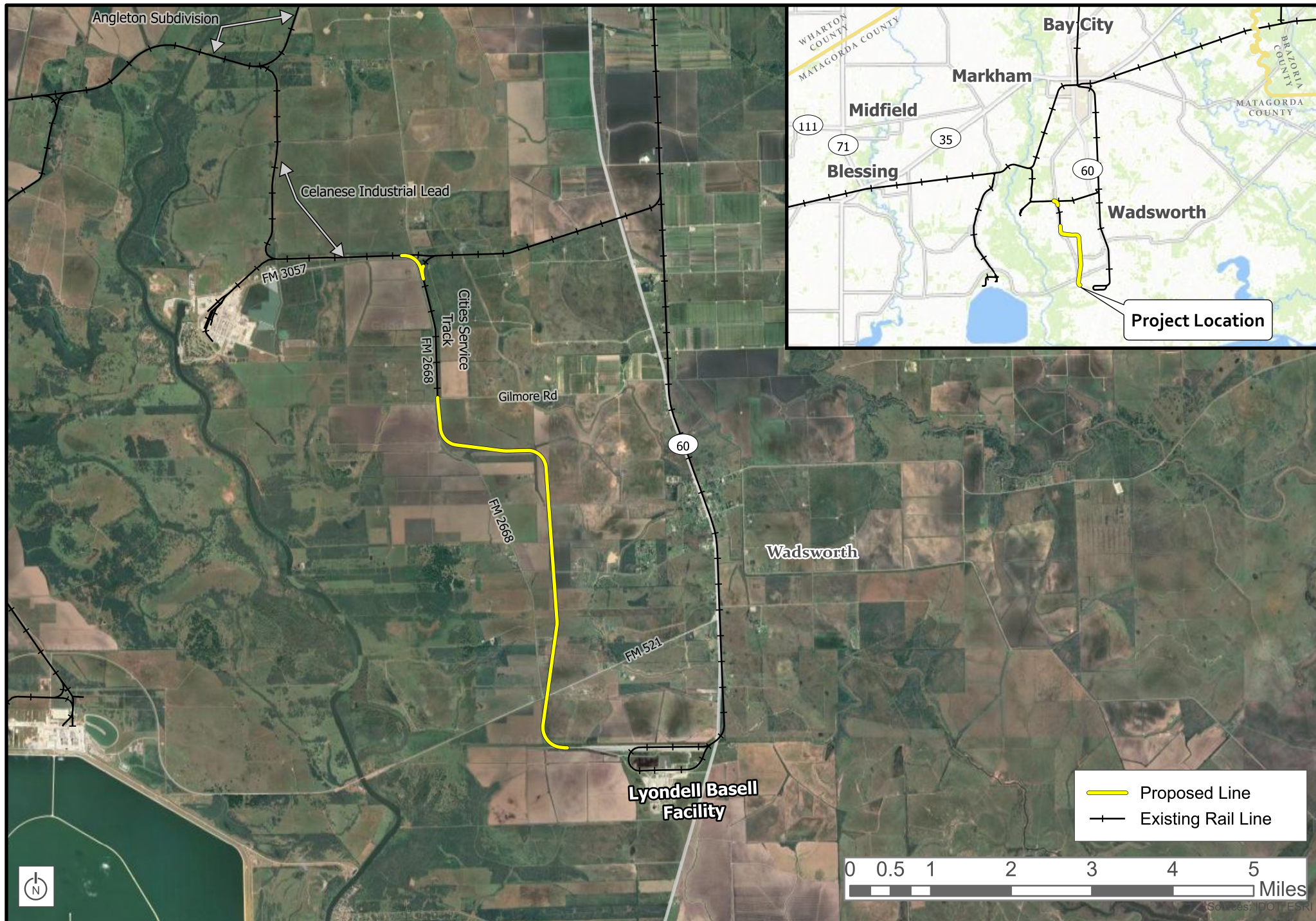
Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process. If you have any questions or would like to arrange a call, please feel free to contact Karen Stevens or my staff at 202-245-0304 or by email at Karen.Stevens@stb.gov.

Sincerely,



Danielle Gosselin
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosure: **Location Map**
Initial Agency and Tribal Distribution List



Project Location Map

Docket No. FD 36854
 Union Pacific Railroad Company
 Construction and Operation Exemption
 Matagorda County, TX

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

Initial Agency and Tribal Distribution List

RE: Docket No. FD 36854, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – in Matagorda County, Texas; Preliminary Consultation

The below lists all federal, state, and local elected officials; federal, state and local agencies; and tribal nations contacted by the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) in connection with the above referenced Docket No. FD 36854.

Federal, State, and Local Elected Officials

- United States Senator John Cornyn
- United States Senator Ted Cruz
- United States Congressman Troy Nehls
- State Governor Greg Abbott
- State Senator Joan Huffman
- State Representative AJ Loudbacker
- Robert Nelson, Bay City Mayor
- Bobby Seiferman, Matagorda County Judge

Federal Agencies

- Katherine Renshaw, Section Chief, NOAA- Environmental Review and Coordination Section
- Stewart Jacks, Acting Regional Director, USFWS – Southwest Regional Office
- Catherine Yeargan, Project Leader, USFWS – Texas Coastal and Central Plains Ecological Services Field Office
- Karl Brown, Project Operations Branch Chief, USACE – Galveston District
- Kristy Oates, State Conservationist, USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bay City Office
- Gerald Stolar, Acting Deputy Regional Administrator, FEMA – Region 6
- Brian Carlstrom, Regional Director, National Park Service- Region 6, 7, and 8
- Andy Strelcheck, Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- Robert Houston, Deputy Director, EPA – Region 6, Environmental Communities Engagement and Review Division
- Eric Cobb, Field Office Director, HUD – Houston Field Office

- Robert Morgan, Deputy Regional Director of Trust Services, BIA – Southern Plains Region
- Terry Bruner, Deputy Regional Director of Indian Services, BIA – Southern Plains Region

State Agencies

- Doug Booher, Director of Environmental Affairs, Texas Department of Transportation
- Alan Cain, Director of Wildlife, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department – Wildlife Division
- Matthew Burnett, Branch Operations Manager, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Kelly Keel, Executive Director, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Christopher Hotchkiss, Chief of Staff, Railroad Commission of Texas
- Alan McWilliams, Deputy Director of Leasing Operations, Texas General Land Office (GLO)
- Mark Lambert, Deputy Director of Archives and Records Division, Texas General Land Office (GLO)
- Joseph Bell, Executive Director and SHPO, Texas Historical Commission
- Tracy Lovingood, Archeology Division, Texas Historical Commission

Local Agencies

- Alexandria Longoria, Commissioner's Court Secretary, Matagorda County Commissioner's Court
- Scotty Jones, City Manager, City of Bay City
- Mary Savage, Development Services Technician and Certified Floodplain Manager, City of Bay City Planning and Development Services
- Mike Ferdinand, Executive Director, Matagorda County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC)
- Miguel Segura, Director of Public Affairs, Houston-Galveston Area Council
- Clara Tuma, Public Information Officer, Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA)
- Raymond Jones, Chairman, Matagorda County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Tribal Nations

- Durell Cooper, Chairman, Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
- Forest Tahdooahnippah, Chairman, Comanche Nation, Oklahoma
- Martina Minthorn, THPO, Comanche Nation, Oklahoma
- David Sickey, Chairperson, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
- Kristian Poncho, THPO, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
- Russell Martin, President, Tonkawa Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- Lauren Norman-Brown, THPO, Tonkawa Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- Amber Silverhorn-Wolfe, President, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes (Wichita, Keechi, Waco & Tawakonie), Oklahoma
- Gary McAdams, THPO, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes (Wichita, Keechi, Waco & Tawakonie), Oklahoma