



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

March 12, 2026

**RE: Docket No. FD 36889, Nevada Gold Rail LLC – Construction and Operation
Exemption – Line of Railroad in Eureka and Lander Counties, Nevada;
Preliminary Consultation**

Dear Agency Representative:

Nevada Gold Rail LLC (NGM Rail) is planning to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate a new rail line in Eureka and Lander Counties, Nevada (Project). As part of its licensing process, the Board will conduct an environmental and historic review of the Project under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321-4370m-11) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C. 306108 (NHPA). 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 appropriate environmental documentation that evaluates the potential environmental and historic impacts of the Project. OEA is currently gathering information about the Project and is requesting your input to assist us in determining the appropriate scope and level of review.

Project Description

NGM Rail proposes to construct and operate a new rail line to connect the Cortez Mine in Crescent Valley to processing facilities at the Goldstrike Mine in Boulder Valley, Nevada. The Project would include construction of two separate rail segments, the Crescent Segment and the Boulder Segment, with both segments connecting to an existing Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) mainline. The two segments would total approximately 55 miles of new rail line. The Project would also include rail sidings and ancillary railroad support facilities. Ancillary railroad support facilities would support loading, unloading, and maintenance and include stockpiles, rail loops, conveyor systems, and access roads. NGM Rail has proposed several alternatives for both the Crescent and Boulder Segments, which are depicted in the enclosed maps. Geospatial files (shapefiles or KMZ files) for the alternatives are available upon request.

According to NGM Rail, the Project would connect the Cortez Mine to the roasting facilities at the Goldstrike Mine and provide common carrier rail service. The Project would allow NGM Rail to transport gold ore by rail instead of semi-truck, removing up to 480 truck trips per day. According to NGM Rail, the Project is not expected to result in changes to existing mine production or output.

The proposed rail line would move approximately one loaded train per day and one unloaded train per day. Each unit train would include between 50 and 110 cars, depending on gold ore production. NGM rail expects the trains to operate 350 days per year, with the other 15 days of the year used for maintenance activities.

Request for Comments

OEA is requesting information from your agency on any environmental resources that may be affected by construction and operation of the new rail line **by April 13, 2026**, so that OEA may begin the process of identifying the appropriate scope of review for the Project. To submit a response, select “File an Environmental Comment” on the Board’s website at www.stb.gov (below the “Need Assistance?” button). Please make sure to refer to Docket No. FD 36889 in all correspondence, including e-filings, addressed to the Board. 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 Adam Assenza, OEA’s Project Manager for the environmental review, by mail to:

Adam Assenza
Surface Transportation Board (Docket No. FD 36889)
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

We look forward to your participation in the environmental review process. If you have any questions or would like to arrange a call, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza of my staff at 202-245-0301 or by email at adam.assenza@stb.gov.

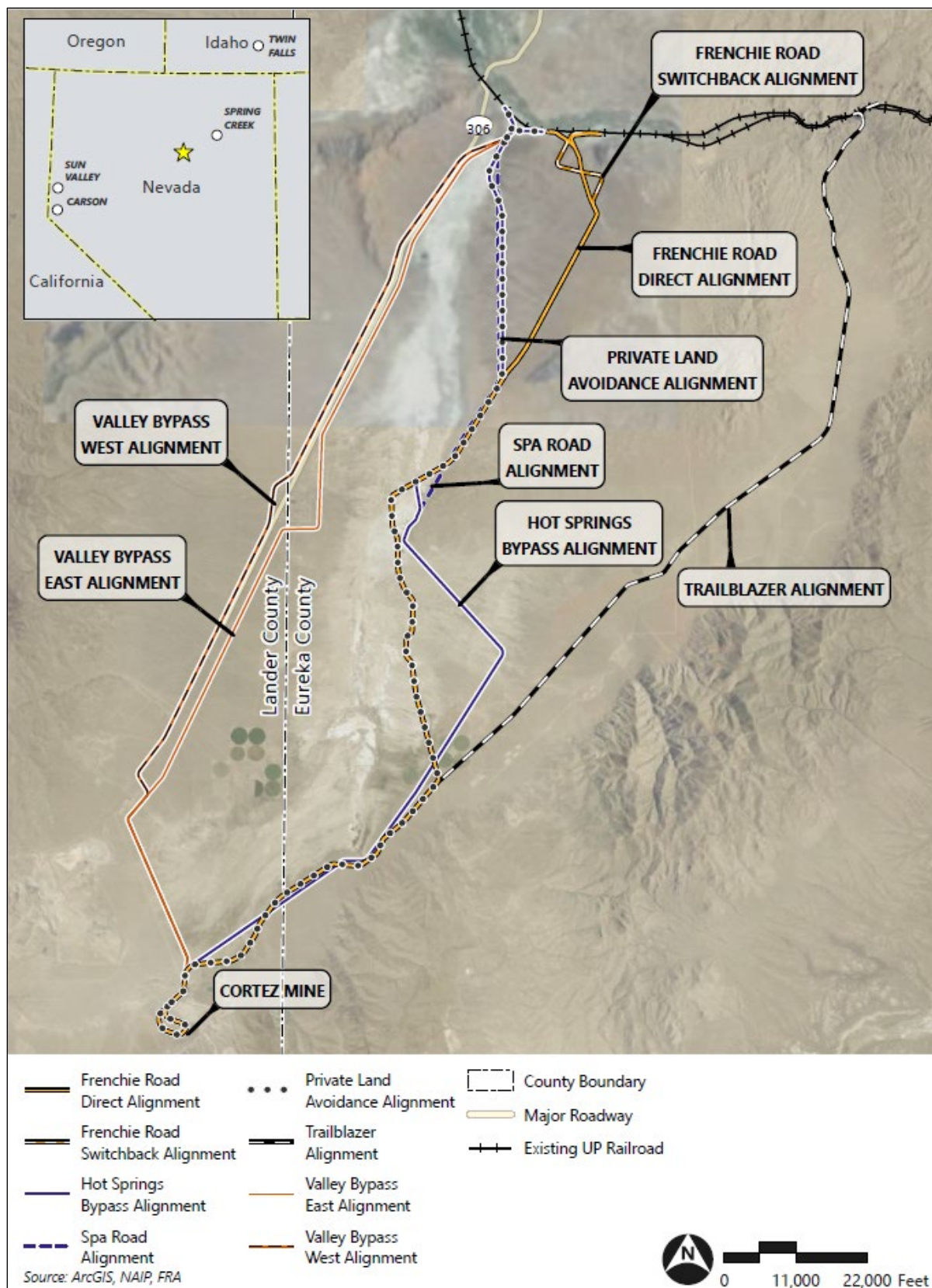
Sincerely,

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

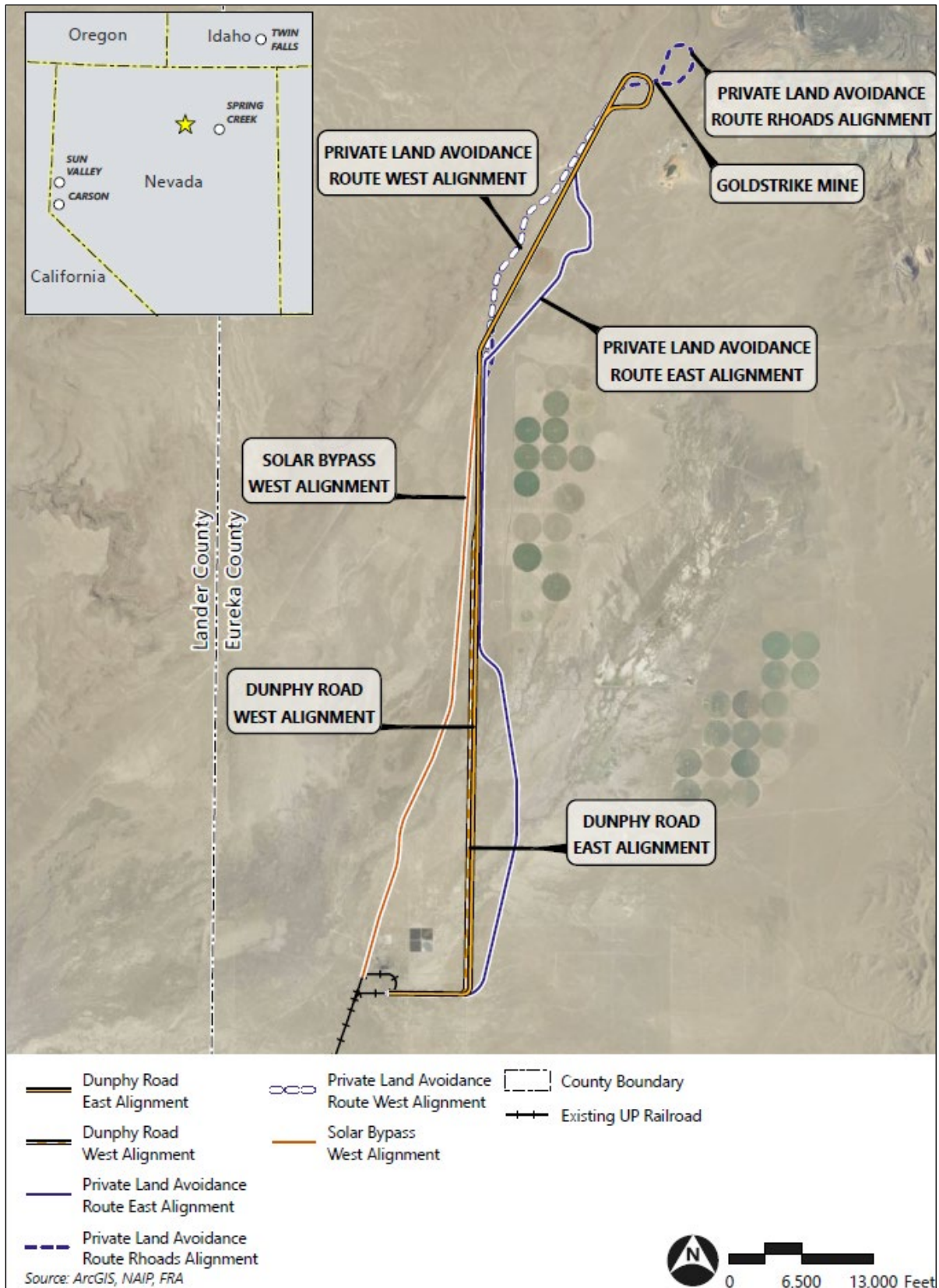
Danielle Gosselin
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures: Maps

Crescent Segment Alignments



Boulder Segment Alignments





SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

March 12, 2026

The Honorable John Ellison
Nevada State Senate
401 South Carson Street, Room 2102
Carson City, NV 89701

By email at John.Ellison@sen.state.nv.us

**RE: Docket No. FD 36889, Nevada Gold Rail LLC – Construction and Operation
Exemption – Line of Railroad in Eureka and Lander Counties, Nevada;
Preliminary Consultation**

Dear Senator Ellison:

Nevada Gold Rail LLC (NGM Rail) is planning to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate a new rail line in Eureka and Lander Counties, Nevada (Project). As part of its licensing process, the Board will conduct an environmental and historic review of the Project under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321-4370m-11), and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C. 306108 (NHPA). 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 appropriate environmental documentation that evaluates the potential environmental and historic impacts of the Project.

The purpose of this letter is to request preliminary comments from your office on any environmental issues and/or concerns associated with the Project, including any information on resources that may be affected. Your comments will assist OEA in determining the appropriate scope and level of review.

Project Description

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railroad support facilities would support loading, unloading, and maintenance and include stockpiles, rail loops, conveyor systems, and access roads. NGM Rail has proposed several alternatives for both the Crescent and Boulder Segments, which are depicted in the enclosed maps. Geospatial files (shapefiles or KMZ files) for the alternatives are available upon request.

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Request for Comments

OEA is requesting any comments you may have on the new rail line **by April 13, 2026**, so that OEA may begin the process of identifying the appropriate scope of review for the Project. To submit a response, select “File an Environmental Comment” on the Board’s website at www.stb.gov (below the “Need Assistance?” button). Please make sure to refer to Docket No. FD 36889 in all correspondence, including e-filings, addressed to the Board. Brief comments can be typed in the comment field provided, and lengthier comments can be attached as Word, Adobe Acrobat, or other file formats.

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Surface Transportation Board (Docket No. FD 36889)
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

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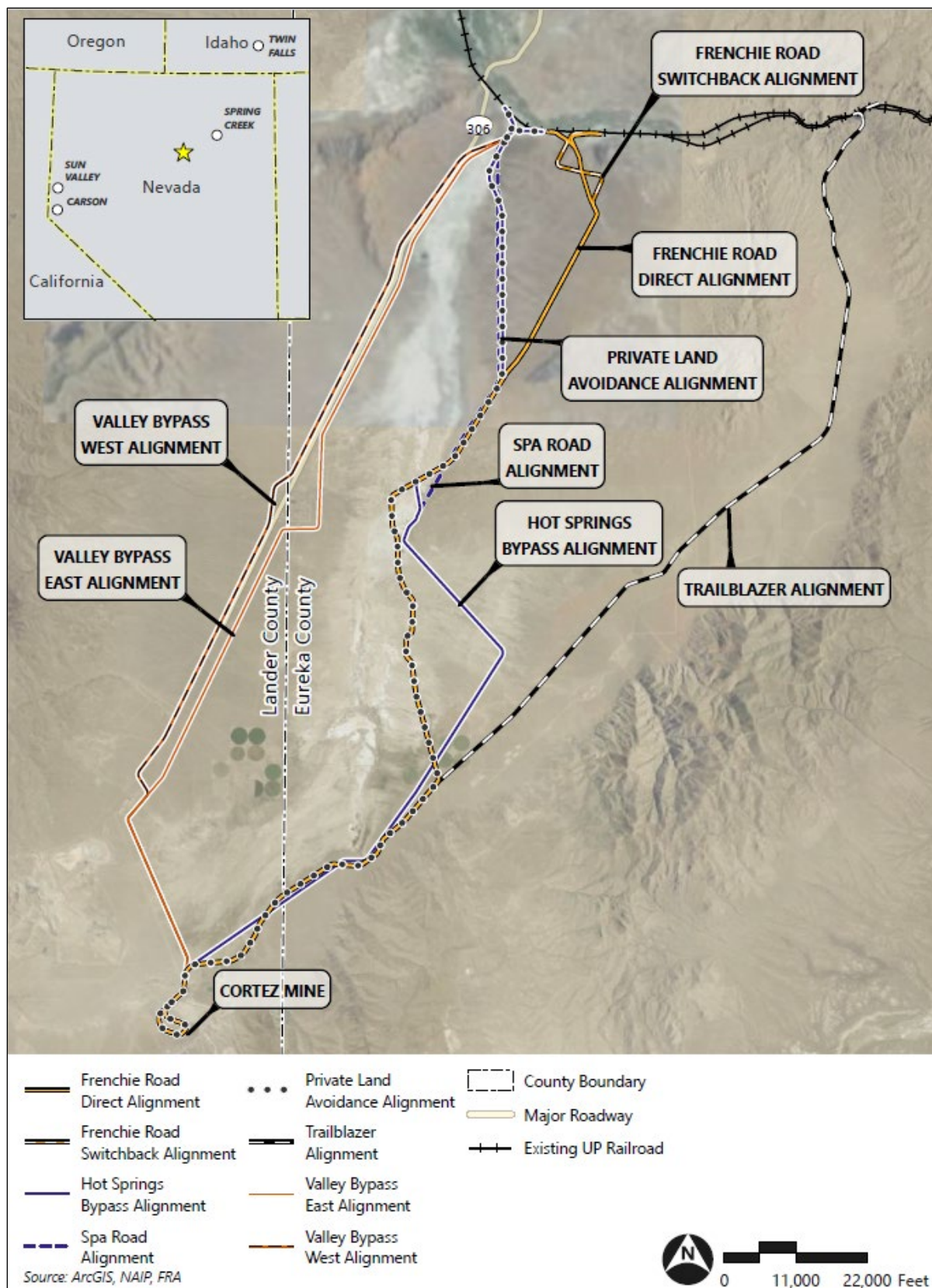
Sincerely,



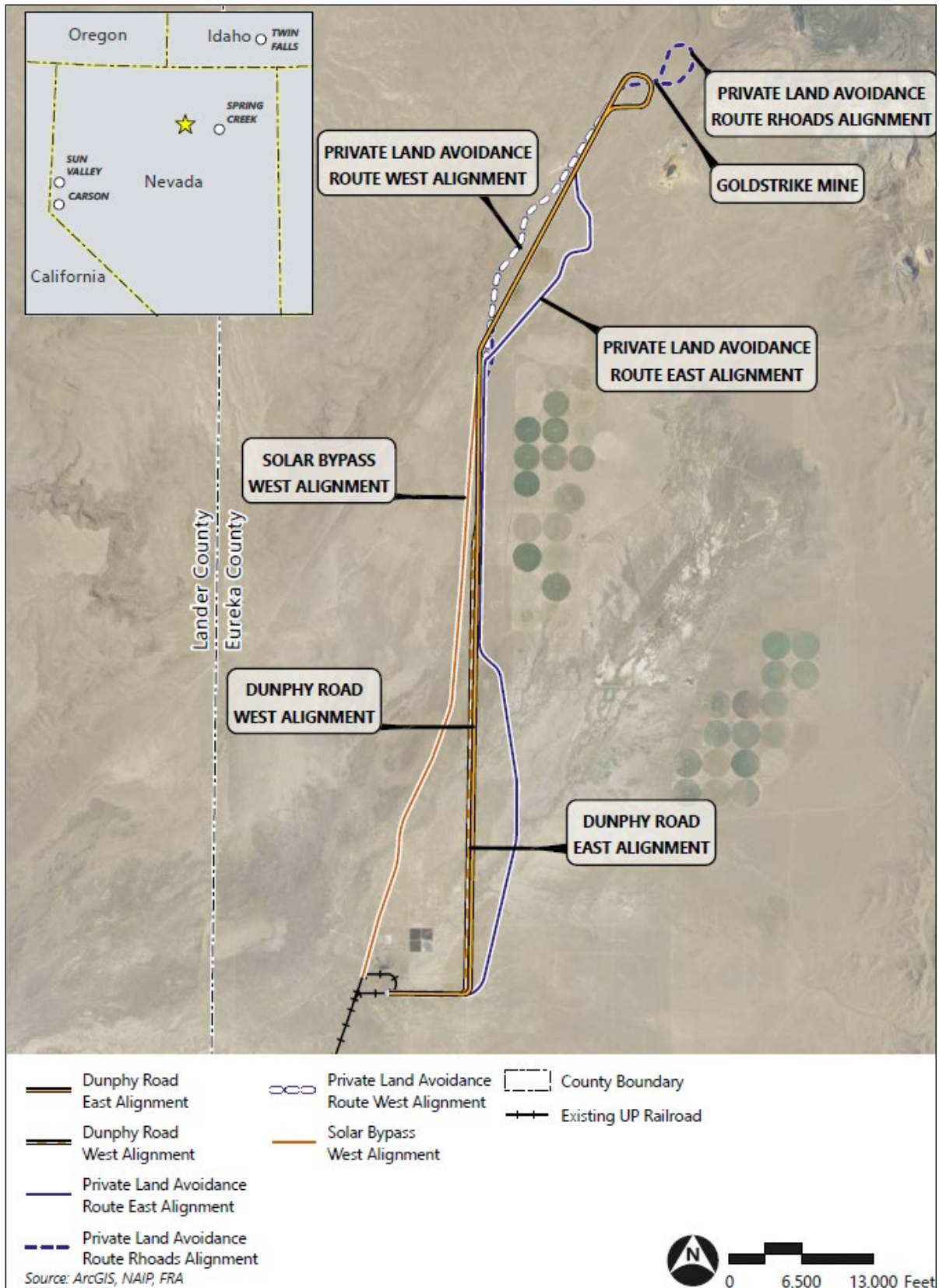
Danielle Gosselin
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures: Maps

Crescent Segment Alignments



Boulder Segment Alignments





SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

March 12, 2026

Evan Jim, Chairman
Battle Mountain Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians
37 Mountain View Drive
Battle Mountain, NV 89820

By email at jimmy99bulls@gmail.com

**RE: Docket No. FD 36889, Nevada Gold Rail LLC – Construction and Operation
Exemption – Line of Railroad in Eureka and Lander Counties, Nevada;
Preliminary Consultation**

Dear Chairman Jim:

The purpose of this letter is to determine your Tribe's interest in formal government-to-government consultation with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) regarding the above-referenced proceeding. Nevada Gold Rail LLC (NGM Rail) is planning to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate a new rail line in Eureka and Lander Counties, Nevada (Project). As part of its licensing process, the Board will conduct an environmental and historic review of the Project under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321-4370m-11), and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C. 306108 (NHPA). 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 appropriate environmental documentation that evaluates the potential environmental and historic impacts of the Project.

OEA is requesting a response on whether your Tribe would be interested in consulting with OEA regarding the broader range of impacts assessed under NEPA, including those to tribal lands and resources. To assist you in responding, OEA has attached a comment form regarding any future involvement your Tribe may want in the overall NEPA process (see the enclosed Consultation Form). I respectfully request that you complete the form and return it to Adam Assenza of my staff at your earliest convenience.

Project Description

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Boulder Segment, with both segments connecting to an existing Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) mainline. The two segments would total approximately 55 miles of new rail line. The Project would also include rail sidings and ancillary railroad support facilities. Ancillary railroad support facilities would support loading, unloading, and maintenance and include stockpiles, rail loops, conveyor systems, and access roads. NGM Rail has proposed several alternatives for both the Crescent and Boulder Segments, which are depicted in the enclosed maps. Geospatial files (shapefiles or KMZ files) for the alternatives are available upon request.

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Contact Information

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a call, please do not hesitate to contact Adam Assenza of my staff at 202-245-0301 or by email at adam.assenza@stb.gov. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danielle Gosselin".

Danielle Gosselin
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures: Consultation Form
Maps

CONSULTATION FORM

Battle Mountain Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians

**RE: Docket No. FD 36889, Nevada Gold Rail LLC – Construction and Operation
Exemption – Line of Railroad in Eureka and Lander Counties, Nevada;
Preliminary Consultation**

Please check all the appropriate response(s) that apply from the list below and use the back of this form or additional sheets if you wish to make comments:

- ☐ We have no interest in the proposed project and no further consultation with our Tribe is required.
- ☐ We want to continue to receive information about the proposed project by mail and participate in the public involvement process for the environmental review.
- ☐ We have an interest in the proposed project and would like to participate in government-to-government consultation with the Surface Transportation Board.

Name of the Battle Mountain Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians designated contact for the proposed project:

Please print

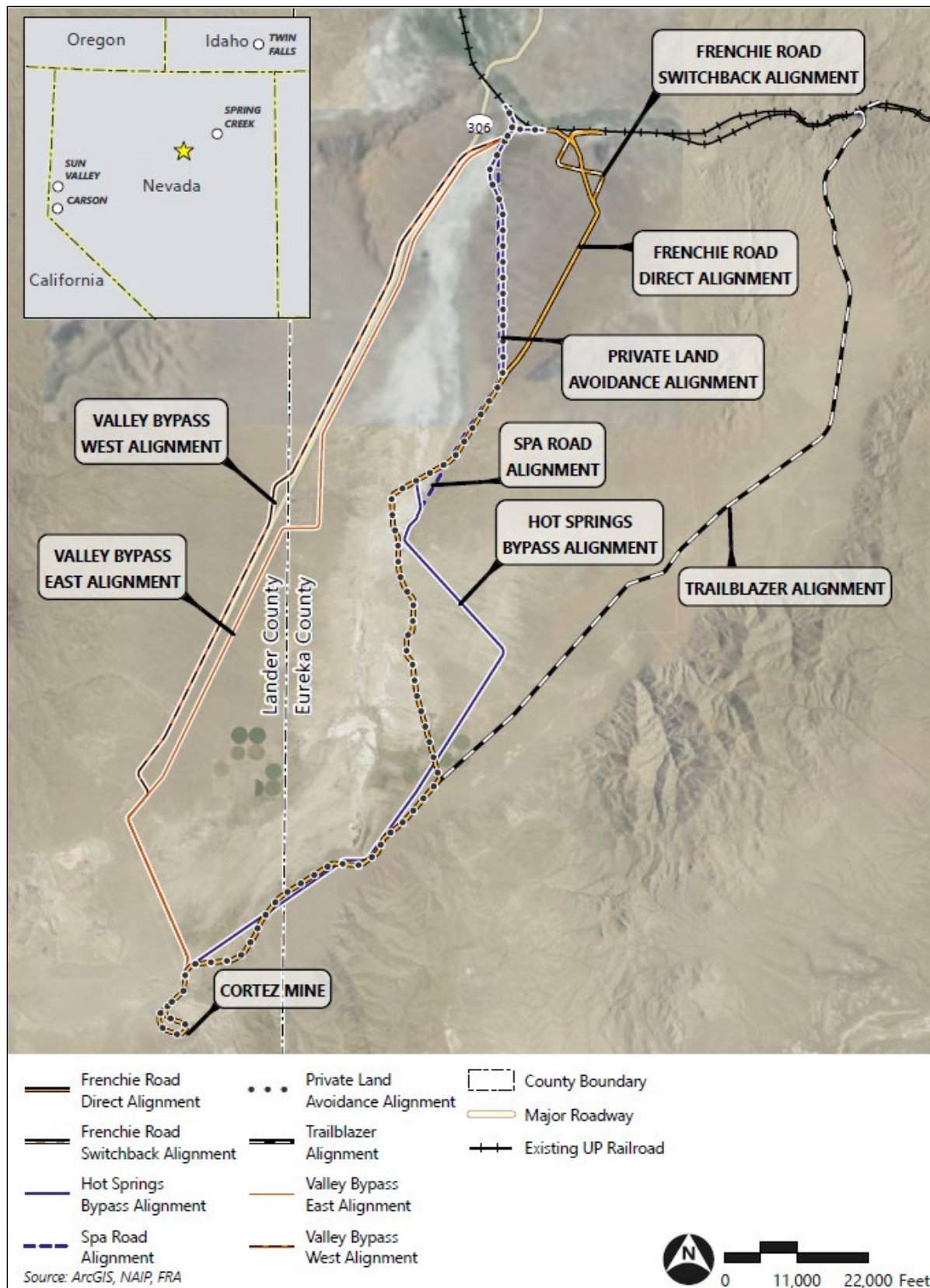
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

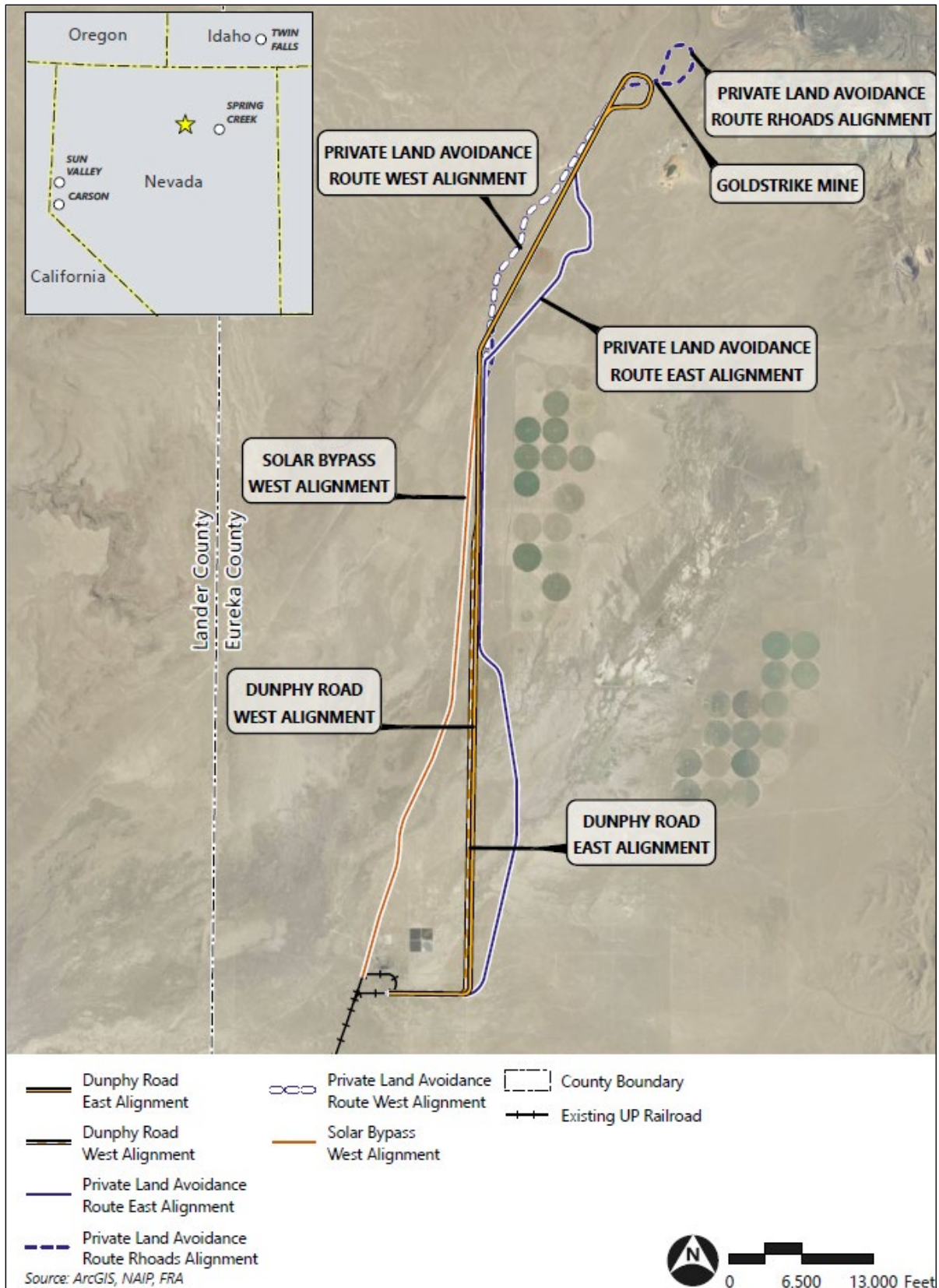
Please mail to: Adam Assenza
Surface Transportation Board (Docket No. FD 36889)
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Or Email to: adam.assenza@stb.gov

Crescent Segment Alignments



Boulder Segment Alignments



Distribution List

RE: Docket No. FD 36889, Nevada Gold Rail LLC – Construction and Operation Exemption – Line of Railroad in Eureka and Lander Counties, Nevada; 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.

Federal, State, and Local Elected Officials

- Mark Amodei, Congressman, U.S. House of Representatives (Nevada 2nd District)
- Catherine Cortez Masto, Senator, U.S. Senate
- Jacky Rosen, Senator, U.S. Senate
- Joe Lombardo, Governor, State of Nevada
- Ira Hansen, Senator, Nevada State Senate (District 14)
- John Ellison, Senator, Nevada State Senate (District 19)
- Alexis M. Hansen, Assembly Member, Nevada State Assembly (District 32)
- Bert K. Gurr, Assembly Member, Nevada State Assembly (District 33)
- Diana Kersey, Chairperson, Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board
- Bryan Sparks, Chair, Lander County Commission
- Rich McKay, Chairman, Board of Eureka County Commissioners

Federal Agencies

- Jane Jackson-Bear, Superintendent, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Eastern Nevada Agency
- Jon Raby, State Director, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Office
- Jon Sherve, Acting District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Battle Mountain District
- Jared Bybee, District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Elko District
- Robert J. Fenton, Jr., Regional Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 9
- Dana J. Caccamise II, Regional Advisor, National Geodetic Survey
- Randy Levasseur, Regional Director, National Park Service, Pacific West Region
- Heidi Ramsey, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Nevada State Office
- Kevin Roukey, Office Chief, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District (Reno Field Office)
- Josh F.W. Cook, Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
- Kristen Jule, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Reno Fish and Wildlife Office

State Agencies

- Jennifer L. Carr, Administrator, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
- James A. Settelmeyer, Director, Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Joseph Marynak, Land Use Planner, Nevada Division of State Lands
- Art Krupicz, State Historic Preservation Officer, Nevada State Historic Preservation Office
- Ryan S. Shane, State Forester, Nevada Division of Forestry
- Lindsey Lesmeister, Biologist, Nevada Department of Wildlife
- Chris Young, Chief, Environmental Services Program, Nevada Department of Transportation

Local Agencies

- Nichole Cooley, EMS Director, Eureka County Emergency Medical Services
- Jeb Rowley, Director, Eureka County Public Works Department
- Jessica Walker, Planning Coordinator, Lander County Planning and Zoning Department
- Wayne Alexander, Leadman, Lander County Road and Bridge Department

Tribal Nations

- Evan Jim, Chairman, Battle Mountain Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians
- Dennis White III, Chairman, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation
- Warren Graham, Chairman, Duckwater Shoshone Tribe
- Alvin Marques, Chairman, Ely Shoshone Tribe
- Raquel Yopez, Chairman, Elko Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians
- David Hinkey, Chairman, Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes of the Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation
- Catherine Williams-Tuni, Chairwoman, Paiute-Shoshone Tribe of the Fallon Reservation and Colony
- Steven Wadsworth, Chairman, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe of the Pyramid Lake Reservation
- Daryl D. Gardipe, Chairman, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony
- Brian Mason, Chairman, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation
- Ronnie Woods, Chairman, South Fork Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians
- Suzana Sandoval, Chairwoman, Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians
- Casey Franco, Chairman, Wells Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians
- Ginny Hatch, Chairman, Yerington Paiute Tribe of the Yerington Colony and Campbell Ranch
- Darryl Brady, Chairman, Yomba Shoshone Tribe of the Yomba Reservation