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BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
June 15, 2026
Part of
Public Record

DOCKET NO. AB-1351X

ST. PAUL & PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY, LLC
– DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE EXEMPTION –
IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CAL.

**VERIFIED DISCONTINUANCE NOTICE OF EXEMPTION OF
ST. PAUL & PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY, LLC PURSUANT TO
49 C.F.R. PART 1152, SUBPART F**

Robert A. Wimbish
Fletcher & Sippel LLC
29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606
rwimbish@fletcher-sippel.com
(312) 252-1500

**ATTORNEY FOR ST. PAUL & PACIFIC
RAILROAD COMPANY, LLC**

Dated: June 15, 2026

FEE RECEIVED
June 15, 2026
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FILED
June 15, 2026
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– DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE EXEMPTION –
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**VERIFIED DISCONTINUANCE NOTICE OF EXEMPTION OF
ST. PAUL & PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY, LLC PURSUANT TO
49 C.F.R. PART 1152, SUBPART F**

St. Paul & Pacific Railroad Company, LLC (“SPPR”) hereby submits this verified notice of exemption (the “Notice”) pursuant to 49 C.F.R. part 1152, subpart F to discontinue common carrier service over approximately 28.39 route miles of railroad (the “Line”) in Santa Cruz County, California, extending from milepost 3.0 west of Watsonville Junction, California, to milepost 31.39 at the end of line at Davenport, California.

In accordance with the requirements of 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d)(2), SPPR submits the following information:

Certification for Class Exemption (49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(b)):

SPPR qualifies to invoke the Board’s discontinuance of service class exemption at 49 C.F.R. part 1152, subpart F in order to be relieved of its common carrier obligations on the Line for the following reasons: (1) no local traffic has moved over the Line for more than two years prior to the date of this Notice; (2) although the Line is stub ended and hosts no overhead traffic, any such overhead

traffic – if it existed – could be rerouted over other lines; and (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the Line regarding cessation of service is either pending with the Board or a U.S. District Court, nor has a complaint regarding any such service cessation been decided in favor of the complainant within the past two years. See Certification and Verification, attached.

Additional Information Required (49 C.F.R. §§ 1152.22(a)(1)-(4), (7)-(8) and (e)(4)):

Exact name of applicant (49 C.F.R. § 1152.22(a)(1):

St. Paul & Pacific Railroad Company, LLC

Whether applicant is a common carrier by railroad (49 C.F.R. § 1152.22(a)(2)):

SPPR is a Class III common carrier by railroad subject to the Board's jurisdiction under 49 U.S.C. Subtitle IV. The Line constitutes the larger portion of a roughly 30.96-mile line of railroad (the "Santa Cruz Line") extending from milepost 0.433 at Watsonville Junction to milepost 31.39 at the end of the line at Davenport. SPPR secured a common carrier freight easement interest in the Santa Cruz Line, inclusive of the attendant common carrier obligations associated with the easement interest, pursuant to *St. Paul & Pacific Railroad Company, LLC – Change in Operators Exemption – Santa Cruz and Monterey Bay Railway Company*, FD 36207 (STB served Aug. 1, 2018). See also *Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission – Petition for Declaratory Order*, FD 36213 (STB served Oct. 24, 2018) (addressing the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission ("RTC") ownership of the right of way and track assets along the Santa

Cruz Line, SPPR's acquisition of a freight common carrier easement over the Santa Cruz Line, and the terms of an operating agreement – the revised Administration, Coordination, and License Agreement – between RTC and SPPR).

Relief sought (49 C.F.R. § 1152.22(a)(3)):

SPPR seeks to discontinue common carrier service over the Line, which consists of approximately 28.39 route miles of railroad in Santa Cruz County, California, extending from milepost 3.0 west of Watsonville Junction and milepost 31.39 at the end of line at Davenport.

Map (49 C.F.R. § 1152.22(a)(4)):

A map depicting the location of the Line is attached as Exhibit A.

SPPR's representative (49 C.F.R. § 1152.22(a)(7)):

SPPR's representative to whom correspondence regarding this discontinuance should be sent to:

Robert A. Wimbish
Fletcher & Sippel LLC
29 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606
312-252-1500

ZIP codes traversed (49 C.F.R. § 1152.22(a)(8)):

The Line traverses United States Postal Service ZIP Code territories 95076, 95003, 95010, 95062, 95060, and 95017.

Suitability for other public purposes (49 C.F.R. § 1152.22(e)(4)):

The informational requirement of Section 1152.22(e)(4) (alternative public uses of rail property) is pertinent only where a railroad proposes to abandon rail property, not where (as here) the railroad proposes solely to discontinue service.¹ Nevertheless SPPR understands that the Line may be considered for, among other things, future potential joint use as a railroad corridor and recreational corridor, or that it could be deployed in the future for passenger rail service – all uses that would be subject to the concurrence of RTC as the owner of the corridor.

Consummation Date (49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d)(2)):

SPPR intends to consummate discontinuance of its common carrier obligations over the Line on or very shortly after the effective date of the subject exemption.

Labor Protection (49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d)(2)):

The appropriate level of labor protection for the transaction proposed herein is that set forth in *Oregon Short Line R.R. – Abandonment – Goshen*, 360

¹ See, e.g., *Columbus and Greenville Railway Company – Discontinuance of Service Exemption – In Greenwood, MS*, Docket No. AB-297 (Sub-No. 103X) (STB served July 3, 2007) at 2 n.2 (“Because this is a discontinuance proceeding and not an abandonment, trail use/rail banking and public use conditions are not appropriate.”).

I.C.C. 91 (1979). No SPPR employees will be adversely affected by the proposed discontinuance.

Certifications (49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d)(1)):

A certificate that the newspaper publication and advance notice provisions of 49 C.F.R. §§ 1105.12 and 1152.50(d)(1), respectively, have been satisfied is attached as Exhibit B. For reasons set forth in the “Environmental and Historic Report” section below, the certification of service requirement at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.11 (transmittal of Environmental and Historic Reports) is inapplicable.

Environmental and Historic Report (49 C.F.R. §§ 1105.7 and 1105.8):

A notice of exemption to discontinue service over (rather than to abandon) a line of railroad under the class exemption does not require the preparation or submission of an Environmental/Historic Report.²

² See, e.g., *Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad Co. – Discontinuance of Trackage Rights Exemption – In Lake County, Ind.*, Docket No. AB-317 (Sub. No. 6) n.3 (“Because this is a discontinuance proceeding and not an abandonment . . . no environmental or historical documentation is required here under 49 CFR 1105.6(c) and 1105.8(b), respectively.”).

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ *R.A. Wimbish*

Robert A. Wimbish
Fletcher & Sippel LLC
29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606
rwimbish@fletcher-sippel.com
(312) 252-1500

**ATTORNEY FOR ST. PAUL & PACIFIC
RAILROAD COMPANY, LLC**

Dated: June 15, 2026

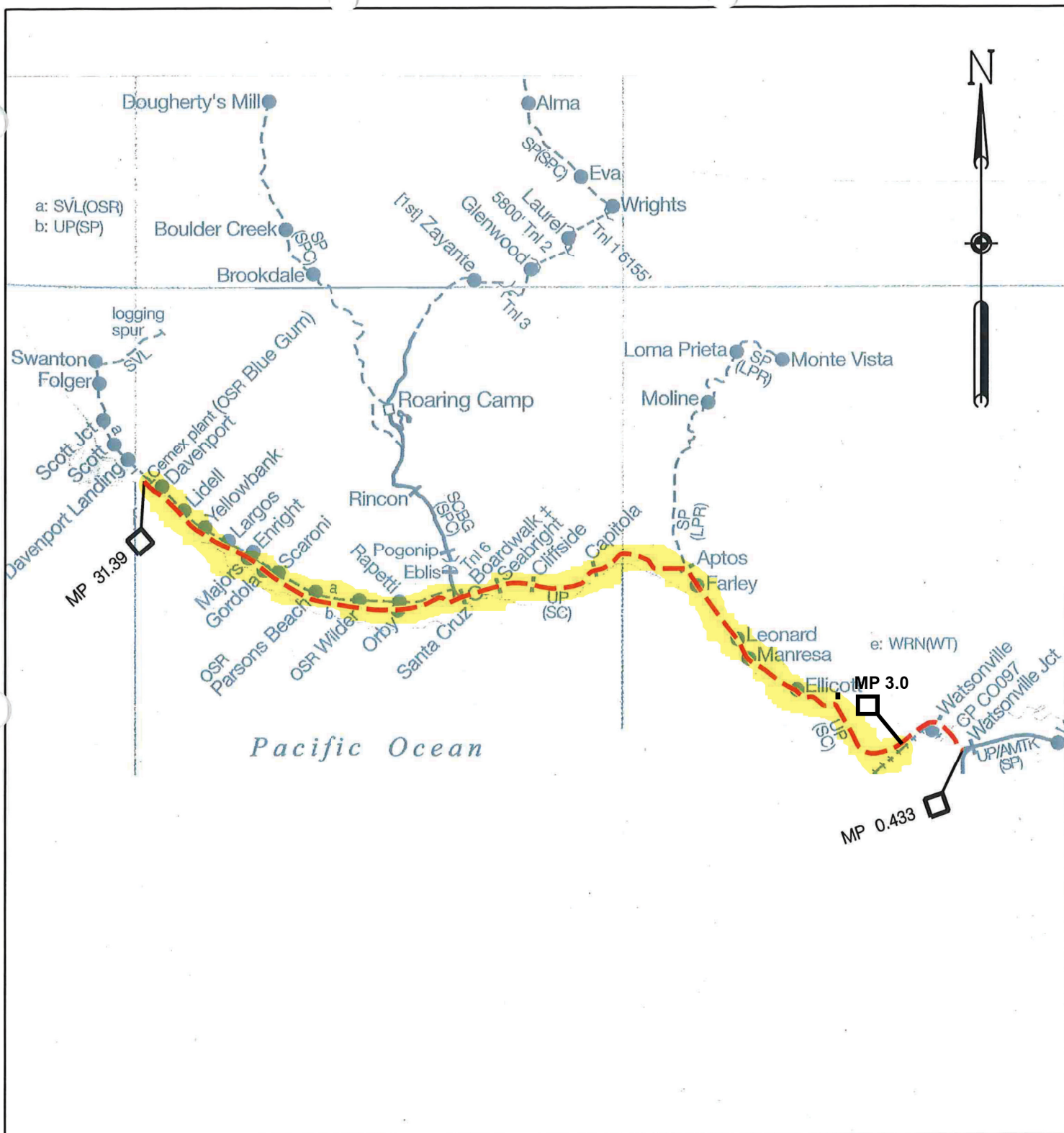
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ST. PAUL & PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY, LLC
– DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE EXEMPTION –
IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CAL.

EXHIBIT A

MAP



NOT TO SCALE

LEGEND

LINE TO BE LEASED SHOWN
MP 0.433 - 31.39



Exhibit A

DOCKET NO. AB-1351X
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EXHIBIT B

**CERTIFICATES OF
SERVICE/PUBLICATION**

DOCKET NO. AB-1351X
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– DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE EXEMPTION –
IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CAL.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE AND PUBLICATION

I, Robert A. Wimbish, attorney for St. Paul & Pacific Railroad Company, LLC, hereby certify that, for the proceeding before the Surface Transportation Board docketed as *St. Paul & Pacific Railroad Company, LLC – Discontinuance of Service Exemption — In Santa Cruz County, Cal., AB-1351X*:

(1) The advance notice requirements of 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d)(1) have been satisfied, to wit: On June 3, 2026, written notice of the proposed discontinuance of rail service was mailed to the (a) United States Department of Defense, MSDDC-TEA, Attn: Railroads for National Defense; (b) U.S. Department of Agriculture, Chief of the Forest Service; (c) National Center for Recreation and Conservation, National Park Service; and (d) the California Public Utilities Commission.

(2) A newspaper notice was published on June 10, 2026, in the Santa Cruz Sentinel, a newspaper of general circulation in Santa Cruz County, California.

Dated: June 15, 2026

/s/ *R.A. Wimbish*

Robert A. Wimbish
Attorney for St. Paul & Pacific Railroad
Company, LLC

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**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO
49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(b) AND
VERIFICATION**

DOCKET NO. AB-1351X

**ST. PAUL & PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY, LLC
– DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE EXEMPTION –
IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CAL.**

CERTIFICATION AND VERIFICATION

Andrea Dobbeltmann, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. St. Paul & Pacific Railroad Company, LLC (“SPPR”) seeks to discontinue common carrier service over approximately 28.39 route miles of railroad (the “Line”) in Santa Cruz County, California, extending from milepost 3.0 west of Watsonville Junction, California, to milepost 31.39 at the end of line at Davenport, California.
2. SPPR has handled no local traffic over the Line for at least two years, and there will be no effect on overhead traffic, as none exists (or could exist, given the stub-ended nature of the Line).
3. No formal complaint filed by a user of rail service (or a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding SPPR’s cessation of service over the Line is either pending with the Surface Transportation Board or any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of the complainant within the past two years.
4. I have read the foregoing discontinuance of service notice of exemption; know the facts asserted therein are true and accurate as stated to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief; and state that I am duly authorized to make such verification on behalf of SPPR.



Andrea Dobbelmann

Chief Executive Officer

St. Paul & Pacific Railroad Company, LLC

21778 Highview Avenue

Lakeville, MN 55044