



CITY OF AUBURN

Community Development Department

Planning Division

1225 LINCOLN WAY • AUBURN, CA 95603 • PHONE (530) 823-4211

September 17, 2026

Elizabeth Webster

Surface Transportation Board (Docket No. FD 36873)

395 E Street SW

Washington DC 20423

RE: City of Auburn, California Response to (Docket No. FD 36873) from the Surface Transportation Board dated August 19, 2026.

The City of Auburn California is in receipt of your letter pertaining to (Docket No. FD 36873) dated August 19, 2026. Our jurisdiction held multiple meetings with department heads on this proposal and appreciates the opportunity to comment. The City of Auburn has the following concerns and questions related to the proposed railroad merger:

- Increases to air pollution from increased daily freight line and passenger rail line trips.
- Increases of potential transient traffic via illegal train riding.
- Increases in noise pollution particularly during night trips.
- Increases of light pollution specifically during night trips (train lights through residential corridors).
- Increases of potential derailment impacts involving flammable substances or hazardous materials.
- The environmental review should also evaluate the need for enhanced rail-specific training and joint exercises for local first responders. Increased train traffic and hazardous materials transport warrant railroad-supported training programs to ensure emergency personnel are prepared for derailments, fires, and other rail-related incidents. Strengthening training and coordination will improve response readiness and public safety.
- How will the STB address the new CalFire Zone Zero requirements?
- Will there be additional fuel reduction efforts in the corridors located within Auburn's jurisdiction?

While our jurisdiction is not against the proposed railroad merger, we would appreciate a response from your agency to see how the potentially significant impacts will be addressed and or mitigated. We also would like more detailed information on the number of increased trips for freight and passenger lines related to the City of Auburn City Limits and Sphere of Influence. While the support documents on the website were helpful, they don't provide enough information for our jurisdiction to make a fully educated estimation on proposed impacts and

therefore we may have additional or follow up comments and questions depending on the information provided in your future response to our agency.

If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding this request, staff can be reached directly at (530) 823-4211 (extension 119).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelly Mumper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kelly Mumper, Associate Planner

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Community Development Department,
Planning Division