



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

January 9, 2020

Name **[see attached distribution list]**
Agency
Address

Re: Docket No. FD 36312, Oakland Global Rail Enterprise – Authority to Operate a Rail Line
 in Oakland, Cal.

Dear Name:

Oakland Global Rail Enterprise (OGRE) intends to request authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to operate over sections of existing and rehabilitated railroad tracks in Oakland, California. The Board is an independent federal agency that has jurisdiction over railroad construction and operations. As part of its licensing process, the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) will conduct an environmental review of the proposed rail operations under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.) and related environmental laws.

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed project and to (1) request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed project, (2) solicit comments on potential environmental issues and concerns that may be associated with the proposed project, and (3) identify permits and approvals that may be required of OGRE.

Project Background

OGRE's proposed rail operations would occur within existing rail line right-of-way at and near the former Oakland Army Base (OAB). OAB was decommissioned in 1999 as part of the United States Department of Defense's base realignment and closure program, and since decommissioning, much of the former OAB lands have been conveyed to the City of Oakland (City) and the Port of Oakland (Port) for redevelopment purposes. The right-of-way over which OGRE would operate is located south of the Bay Bridge toll plaza, west of Interstate 880, north of 7th Street, and east of Maritime Street (see attached figure). OGRE owns less than 10 percent of the right-of-way over which it would operate; the balance is owned or controlled by the Port, the City, Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP), and BNSF Railway Company. Collectively, OGRE would operate over approximately 96,000 feet of track.

OGRE states that freight rail is a critical component of the OAB redevelopment plans. Accordingly, OGRE's proposed rail operations would reconnect the OAB rail network, including

lands controlled by both the Port and the City, to the UP main line. OGRE's operations would also be integrated with the Port's newly developed Outer Harbor Intermodal Terminal rail yard that can accommodate intermodal, neo-bulk and bulk commodities. As an alternative to moving freight by truck, OGRE states that the proposed rail operations would also reduce the burden of truck movements on the surrounding communities and existing infrastructure.

OGRE states that the bulk commodities that could be transported as part of the proposed project include proteins, resins, iron ore, copper concentrate, coal, soda ash, and agricultural products. At full operational capacity, OGRE anticipates that up to three trains could move per day with each train being 6,400 feet long and broken into six 3,200-foot-long trains. Trains would be broken down and reassembled in the Port's railyard, which is located parallel to the UP railyard/Interstate 880 corridor at the southeastern boundary of the former OAB.

Environmental Review Process

Pursuant to NEPA and the Board's environmental rules (49 C.F.R. Part 1105), OEA will prepare an environmental document, either an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment, that evaluates the potential environmental effects of the proposed project and the reasonable and feasible alternatives to the proposal. OEA is beginning the process of gathering information on the project area and project-related issues and concerns. Information collected, agency responses to this consultation letter, and a forthcoming site visit by OEA staff, will inform our decision regarding the appropriate NEPA document to prepare for the proposed project.

Once that decision is made, OEA will prepare the draft environmental document and issue it for public review and comment as required by NEPA and the Board's environmental rules. After the environmental review process is complete, the Board will then decide whether to approve, approve with conditions (which could include conditions designed to mitigate potential impacts on the environment), or deny OGRE's request for a license to operate the rail lines described above.

Request for Comments

Your participation in agency consultation will assist us in gathering information needed to assess the potential environmental effects, both positive and negative, that may be associated with the proposed project. In conducting the environmental review required by NEPA, OEA is consulting with, and soliciting comments from, agencies and organizations that may have specific knowledge of potential environmental issues and impacts that may be associated with the proposed project. Your comments will be most helpful to us if they focus on specific environmental issues or concerns pertaining to your jurisdiction. OEA also welcomes information on any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate.

OEA requests your response by February 11, 2020 so that we may be able to schedule meetings, site visits, and surveys, conduct necessary follow-up activities, and incorporate your response into the scope of study, as appropriate. OEA also encourages agencies to submit their comments electronically through the Board's website at <https://www.stb.gov/>. From the Board's

home page, select “File an Environmental Comment” under “Need Assistance?” Brief comments can be typed in the comment field, and lengthier comments can be attached as Word, Adobe Acrobat or other file formats.

Alternatively, comments may be mailed to OEA’s project manager at:

Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

If you have any questions, please contact Dave Navecky of my staff at 202-245-0294 or by email at David.Navecky@stb.gov. We appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board’s environmental review process for the proposed project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and a stylized "R".

Victoria Rutson
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures
cc:

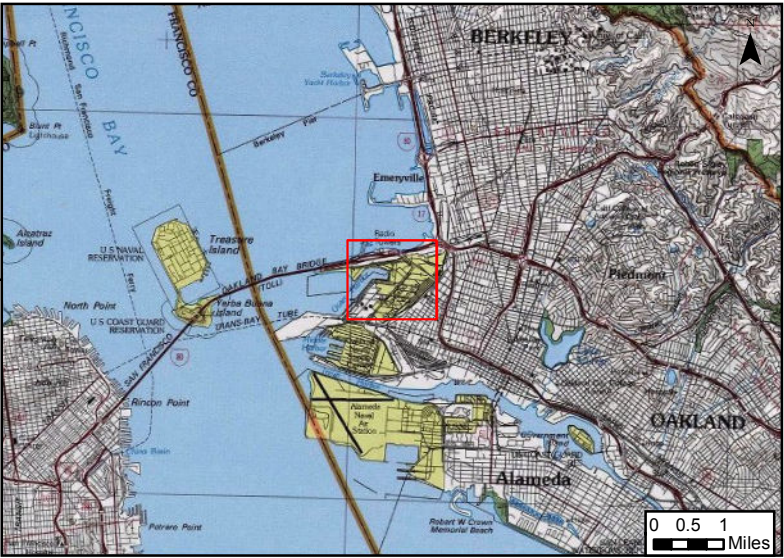
	Agency	Mailing Address
Federal	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)	US EPA Pacific Southwest, Region 9 75 Hawthorne St. San Francisco, CA 94105
	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	South Pacific Division HQ Office 1455 Market Street San Francisco, CA 94103
	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Federal Building 2800 Cottage Way Room W-2606 Sacramento, CA 95825-1846
	Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	California State Office 430 G Street #4164 Davis, CA 95616-4164
	Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)	Region 7 801 I Street Suite 466 Sacramento, CA 95814
	Department of Housing and Urban Development	San Francisco Regional Office One Sansome Street Suite 1200 San Francisco, CA 94104
	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	Region 9 1111 Broadway Suite 1200 Oakland, CA 94607-4052
	Department of Health and Human Services	Region 9 90 Seventh Street San Francisco, CA 94103
	National Park Service (NPS)	Pacific West Region 333 Bush Street Suite 500 San Francisco, CA 94104-2828
	National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries)	West Coast Regional Office 1201 Northeast Lloyd Portland, OR 97232
State	California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Bay Delta Region 2825 Cordelia Road Suite 100 Fairfield, CA 94534
	California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)	1120 N Street Sacramento, CA 95814
	California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)	1001 I Street P.O. Box 2815 Sacramento, CA 95812-2815

	California State Historical Resources Commission (Office of Historic Preservation)	1725 23 rd Street Suite 100 Sacramento, CA 95816
	California Department of Conservation	801 K Street MS 24-01 Sacramento, CA 95814
	California Office of Environmental Health and Hazard Assessment	1515 Clay Street 16 th Floor Oakland, California 94612
	California Natural Resources Agency	1416 Ninth Street Suite 1311 Sacramento, California 95814
	California Department of Water Resources	P.O. Box 942836 Sacramento, California 94236-0001
	California Department of Parks and Recreation	1416 9 th Street Sacramento, CA 95814
	California Department of Agriculture	1220 N Street Sacramento, CA 95814
	California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)	3650 Schriever Ave Mather, CA 95655-4203
	California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development	1325 J Street Suite 1800 Sacramento, CA 95814
Local	Oakland Planning Commission	1 Frank H Ogawa Plaza Council Chambers, 3 rd Floor Oakland, CA 94612
	City of Oakland	1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza Oakland, CA 94612
	Bay Area Air Quality Management District	375 Beale Street Suite 600 San Francisco, CA 94105
	San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission	455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 10600 San Francisco, CA 94102-7019
	Alameda County	1221 Oak Street Suite 555 Oakland, CA 94612
	Alameda County Planning Commission	224 W. Winton Ave Room 111 Hayward, CA 94542
	Alameda County Resource Conservation District	3585 Greenville Road Suite 2 Livermore, CA 94550-6710
	Alameda County Department of Economic and Civic Development	224 W. Winton Ave Room 110 Hayward, CA 94542



LEGEND

Rail lines over which OGRE proposes to operate
(includes rail lines owned by or subleased to OGRE,
and rail lines owned or controlled by others.)



SKELLY AND LOY, Inc.	January 2020	Figure 1
PROJECT LOCATION MAP OAKLAND GLOBAL RAIL ENTERPRISE REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY TO OPERATE A RAIL LINE IN OAKLAND, CAL. DOCKET NO. FD 36312		
Job No.: R18-0093.000	1 Inch = 650 Feet	