



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423
Office of Environmental Analysis

June 2, 2015

Sonia Hutmacher
VP of Government Affairs and Research
Utah Professional Archaeological Council
1443 Binford Street
Ogden, UT 84401

Re: Docket No. FD 34075 - Six County Association of Governments--Construction and Operation Exemption--
Rail Line Between Juab and Salina, UT: **Submittal of Programmatic Agreement for Signature**

Dear Ms. Hutmacher:

On behalf of the Surface Transportation Board (Board), I am pleased to send to you the Programmatic Agreement (PA) for the Six County Association of Governments Railroad project, a proposed 43-mile rail line in Juab, Sanpete, and Sevier Counties. The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) developed this PA in consultation with numerous parties, pursuant to the regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C § 300101 *et seq.* (NHPA), and 36 C.F.R. Part 800. Based on your organization's interest in consultation, I invite you to sign the PA as a Concurring Party to this document.

The PA represents input from federal agencies, state agencies, local interest groups, local governments and tribes. The PA treats historic properties comprehensively, establishing stipulations for survey, evaluation, and protection of cultural resources as well as mitigation of adverse effects. The PA includes protocols for ongoing consultation throughout pre-construction activities as well as for inadvertent discovery and protection protocols during construction. Signatories and concurring parties signing the PA will actively participate in the review of plans, reports and discoveries. The Applicant seeking Board approval for the rail line has primary responsibilities for many aspects of the PA. The Board's OEA will maintain oversight of PA implementation and coordinate consultation.

Thank you for your participation in consultation to address effects to historic properties from this important rail project. If you wish to sign the PA, in order to meet our schedule for a Board decision and to enable initiation of project planning, we request return of your signature by June 19, 2015. Please sign the attached signature page and return the original copy to our office.

We look forward to continuing consultation in the implementation of the PA. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Irwin by phone at 202-245-0299, or by email at jeffrey.irwin@stb.dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Victoria Rutson Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosure: PA for Signature