



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

March 30, 2009

Mr. Mark Beason
California State Office of Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Re: STB Docket No. AB-398 (Sub-No. 7X), San Joaquin Valley Railroad Company –
Abandonment Exemption – in Tulare County, CA

Dear Mr. Beason:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) has initiated an environmental review for the above abandonment proceeding pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

I am following up our conversation last week about the Section 106 review process. The Board has authorized the abandonment by decision served on June 6, 2008, subject to various conditions including the completion of the Section 106 process. SEA designates the Law Offices of Louis E. Gitomer (Gitomer), who represent San Joaquin Valley Railroad Company, as our representative for this undertaking to work with your office on moving forward with the Section 106 review process. I understand that you have already had some contact with Melanie Yasbin (410-296-2205) at Gitomer regarding this case. Although we are designating Gitomer to work with you on our behalf, we understand that as the Federal agency, the Board is ultimately responsible for completion of the Section 106 review.

If you have any questions, require additional information regarding this proceeding, or have any concerns regarding our consultation responsibilities, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 245-0305.

Sincerely,

Kenneth H. Blodgett
Environmental Protection Specialist

cc: Melanie Yasbin, San Joaquin Valley Railroad