



**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**  
**Washington, DC 20423**

*Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration*

September 16, 2009

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:

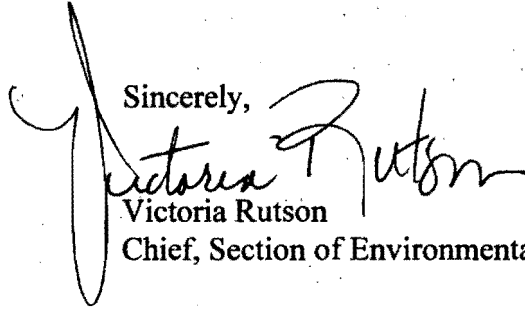
The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) has conducted an environmental review for the above abandonment proceeding pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The Board has authorized the abandonment by decision served on June 6, 2008, subject to various conditions, including the completion of the Section 106 process. SEA has designated the Law Offices of Louis E. Gitomer (Gitomer), who represent San Joaquin Valley Railroad Company (SJVR), as our representative for this undertaking to work with your office on moving the Section 106 review process forward. Gitomer has recently provided the Board with additional details (Attachment 1) on bridges located along the rail line to be abandoned by SJVR in this docket. Photos of the structures and a description of the undertaking are set forth in SJVR's Historic Report (Attachment 2).

Pursuant to the Section 106 regulations of the National Historic Preservation Act at 36 CFR 800.5(b), we have determined that the abandonment would not affect historic properties listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places located within the right-of-way (the Area of Potential Effect or APE). The documentation for this finding, as specified at 36 CFR 800.11(e), consists of the railroad's historic report, all relevant correspondence, and the EA, which have been made available to the public through posting on the Board's website at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

Please provide your comment, if any, regarding this undertaking within 30 days of receipt of this letter. If we do not hear from you within the 30-day time frame specified in the regulations at 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1)(i), we will determine that the Section 106 process is complete and will remove the Section 106 condition from this proceeding.

If you have any questions, require additional information regarding this proceeding, or have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or Kenneth Blodgett of my staff at (202) 245-0305.

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 long, sweeping underline.

Victoria Rutson

Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis

cc: San Joaquin Valley Railroad (Gitomer)