

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration

January 7, 2005

Ms. Christine Boston, Environmental Coordinator
Ione Band of Miwok Indians
P.O. Box 1190
Ione, CA 95640

**Re: STB Docket No. AB 512X, Sierra Pacific Industries – Abandonment
Exemption – in Amador County, CA**

Dear Ms. Boston:

The Surface Transportation Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is conducting an environmental review of a rail line abandonment proposed by Sierra Pacific Industries, in Amador County, California. SEA is conducting this review under the National Environmental Policy Act and related environmental laws and regulations, including the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f (NHPA). The rail line is approximately 12-miles long and is located between milepost 0.0, at Ione, and milepost 12.0, at Martell.

As required by the Board's environmental rules at 49 CFR 1105.10(b), SEA is currently preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) that will be made available for public review and comment. It appears that the line is located in the vicinity of the Ione Band of Miwok Indians. Accordingly, we have added the Ione Band of Miwok Indians to the service list, and you will receive a copy of the EA after it is served on January 11, 2005. We would appreciate any information that you have regarding environmental, historic, or cultural resources. In particular, we invite your comments on any potential effects that the proposed abandonment could have on historic or cultural properties.

If you have questions regarding the abandonment process or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 565-1606. For additional information regarding the Board, please feel free to see our web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Christa Dean
Attorney Adviser
Section of Environmental Analysis

cc: California Office of Historic Preservation