



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423
Office of Environmental Analysis

June 2, 2015

Ms. Heather Whitman
District Manager, Color Country District
Bureau of Land Management
176 East D.L. Sargent Drive
Cedar City, UT 84721

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. Whitman:

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 important role as a cooperating agency, I respectfully request your signature representing your organization as an Invited Signatory to this document.

The PA represents input from federal, state, and local agencies, tribes, and local interest groups. 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. Please sign the attached signature page and return the original copy to our office. In order to meet our schedule for a Board decision and to enable initiation of project planning, we request your signature by June 19, 2015.

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
Cc: Wayne Wetzal, Joelle McCarthy