



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
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Dr. William Huneke
Director, Office of Economics
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

October 20, 2019

Dear Dr. Huneke:

Thank you for providing the previous confidential Waybill Sample data for calendar year 2016. I am again writing on behalf of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to appeal to your denial of WB19-44 request for the confidential Waybill Sample data (calendar years 2017) to continue our passenger and freight rail study.

Specifically, SCAG has recently begun a comprehensive integrated passenger and freight rail study for most of southern California, which is focused on identifying freight and passenger mainline funding strategies for needed capacity and operational improvements. The economic forecast portion of this study will be relying on multiple sources of information such as historical and forecast data from the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach regarding containerized trade, and historical and forecast employment and other socioeconomic information. With that, the STB Waybill Sample data will provide a critical piece for freight rail flows by commodity types to and out of the region. It is important to have the origin and destination components from the Waybill Sample data in order to distinguish as best as possible between direct intermodal and transloaded rail moves in the Southern California. Having a historical trend will be instrumental in supporting existing and future conditions analysis needs, as well as determining a Base Case for the RTC simulation models runs. This is a comprehensive systemwide approach of which all key freight and passenger stakeholders are heavily interested in completing.

We acknowledge and can attest to the value of the confidential Waybill Sample data as a critical component of the analysis of commodity flow by rail system, in validating model inputs and outputs. For our analysis, we are sincerely requesting your review for the approval to provide the full 900 byte confidential Waybill Sample data with detailed information about the origins and destinations of commodities/shipments without cost/revenue information to satisfy your concern about unmasked revenue data need. Also, to alleviate your another concern about the waybill access agreement issue, we had submitted the request of one year extension for the WB18-11 which was expired in April 30, 2019.

If there are any questions or additional information required, please contact me at yoon@scag.ca.gov or (213) 236- 1991.

Best regards

Stephen S. Yoon,
Senior Regional Planner

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