



**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

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May 13, 2020

Reply In Reference To: STB_2019_1125_001

Victoria Rutson
Director of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 200423

RE: STB Docket No. AB 874 (Sub-No. 1) Sierra Northern Railway Abandonment
Exemption – Yolo County, California

Dear Ms. Rutson:

OHP is in receipt of your April 22, 2020 submission continuing consultation for the above undertaking, and an April 22, 2020 email by Kenneth Blodgett from the Surface Transportation Board (STB) for the abandonment of Sierra Northern Railway segment.

STB is seeking concurrence that the evaluated property, the railroad line segment of the Sierra Northern railway, does not meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and that the proposed undertaking will not affect historic properties.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) are in the process of implementing a flood control improvement project that will result in the removal of 0.70 miles of rail line from the top of the Sacramento weir to widen it, so that pressure on the levees can be reduced by increasing water flow through the weir and the adjoining bypass. SAFCA and USACE have asked Sierra Northern Railway (Sierra) to abandon the Line and to convey Sierra's interest in the Line to SAFCA.

The consultants, on behalf of STB, recorded the Sacramento Northern Railroad segment that runs in a north/south direction adjacent to the Old River Road and the Sacramento River and extends along the Sacramento Weir, on DPR 523 forms and evaluated the property, dating to ca. 1912, applying the criteria of the NRHP, determining that the property is not eligible.

OHP has reviewed the provided information and is offering the following comments.

I concur that the Sacramento Northern Railroad segment, in Yolo County, no longer maintains integrity because it no longer shows evidence of any of its original engineering features or materials, and resembles a modern railroad track that follows a historic alignment.

I concur that the undertaking, as described, will not affect historic properties.

If you have any other questions, please contact Michelle C. Messinger at (916) 445-7005 or through e-mail at Michelle.Messinger@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. Polanco', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer