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CITY OF SANTA MARIA
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May 1, 2003

Mr. Vernon Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

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SUBJECT: DOCKET # AB-844X – SANTA MARIA VALLEY RAILROAD

Dear Secretary Williams:

This letter is to inform you that the City Council of the City of Santa Maria, California has completed its review of the abandonment proceedings referenced above.

During the course of the City's public meeting and hearing process, the City received input from various individuals and groups who felt that alternate public recreational use could be made of the right-of-way. However, there was strong opposition to recreational use of the right-of-way from agriculturists who felt such use would impede their ability to conduct their business.

As a result, the City Council took action at their April 1, 2003 meeting to notify the Surface Transportation Board that the City of Santa Maria has made a determination **not** to proceed with any acquisition effort for public purposes. The City of Santa Maria recognizes that other interested groups may proceed with direct negotiations with the Santa Maria Valley Railroad for acquisition of the right-of-way in question.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

TIM S. NESS
City Manager
City of Santa Maria

cc: City Council
Recreation and Parks Commission
SMVRR – Mike Parry
Public Hearing Mailing List