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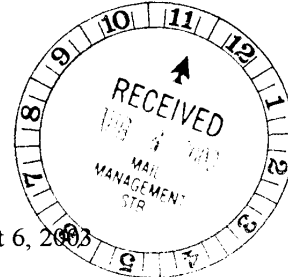
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(202) 263-4152
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August 6, 2003

VIA HAND DELIVERY - RETURN COPY

Hon. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW (7th fl.)
Washington, DC 20423-0001

FILED

AUG 11 2003

SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BOARD

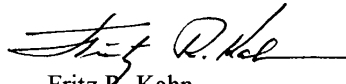
Dear Secretary Williams:

Enclosed for filing in STB Dockets Nos. AB-573X, Trinidad Railways, Inc.-Abandonment Exemption-In Las Animas County, CO, are the original and ten copies of the Statement of American Trails Association, Inc.

Additional copies of this letter and of the Statement are enclosed for you to stamp to acknowledge your receipt of them and to return to me via the messenger.

If you have any question concerning the foregoing which you believe I may be able to answer or if I otherwise can be of assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,


Fritz R. Kahn

enc.

cc: Mr. Steven J. Van Wagenen

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AUG 11 2003

SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BOARD

BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC

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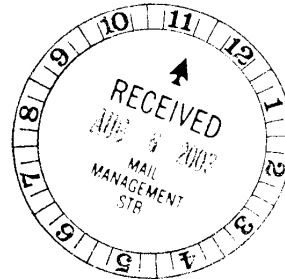
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AUG 11 2003

SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BOARD

STB Docket No. AB-573X

TRINIDAD RAILWAYS, INC.
-- ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION --
IN LAS ANIMAS COUNTY, CO



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SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BOARD

STATEMENT
OF
AMERICAN TRAILS ASSOCIATION, INC.

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

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Public Record

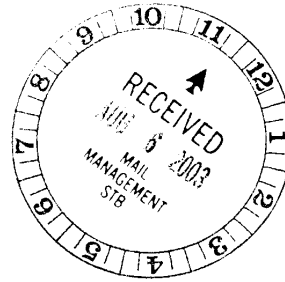
Fritz R. Kahn
Fritz R. Kahn, P.C.
1920 N Street, NW (8th fl.)
Washington, DC 20036-1601
Tel.: (202) 263-4152

Attorney for

AMERICAN TRAILS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Dated: August 6, 2003

BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC



STB Docket No. AB-573X

TRINIDAD RAILWAYS, INC.
-- ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION --
IN LAS ANIMAS COUNTY, CO

STATEMENT
OF
AMERICAN TRAILS ASSOCIATION, INC.

American Trails Association, Inc., of Salt Lake City, Utah, ("ATA"), pursuant to 49 C.F.R. 1152.29, expresses its interest in acquiring for interim trail use and rail banking under the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. 1247(d), and 49 C.F.R. 1152.29, the right-of-way of the railroad line of Trinidad Railway, Inc. ("TRI"),¹ authorized for abandonment by the Decision of the Board, served October 2, 2002.

By this Statement, ATA seeks Board authorization to be able to negotiate with KVR to acquire the right-of-way extending between Milepost 2.0 at Jensen 81082 (west of Trinidad 81082) to Milepost 15.11 in Segundo (no zip code), a distance of 13.11 miles in Las Animas County,

¹ Kern Valley Railroad Company ("KVR") acquired TRI, subject to the notice of exemption for abandonment of the subject line, pursuant to the Verified Notice of Exemption in STB Finance Docket No. 33956, Kern Valley Railroad Company--Acquisition and Operation Exemption--Trinidad Railway, Inc., served November 21, 2000. The Board permitted KVR to buy TRI by its Decisions in the acquisition proceeding, served August 13 and December 11, 2001.

Colorado .

To the best of ATA's knowledge, the abandonment authorization has not yet been exercised by KVR. The rails and ties remain in place, and no notice of the abandonment's consummation has been filed with the Board. The Board, accordingly, retains jurisdiction to issue a Decision and Notice of Interim Trails Use or Abandonment, if KVR were willing to negotiate a trail use agreement with ATA.

Statement of Willingness to Assume

Financial Responsibility

In order to establish interim trail use and rail banking under the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. 1247(d), and 49 C.F.R. 1152.29, ATA is willing to assume full responsibility for the management of, for any legal liability arising out of the transfer or use of, and for the payment of any and all taxes that may be levied or assessed against the right-of-way heretofore owned and operated by KVR. The property extends between Milepost 2.0 at Jensen 81082 (west of Trinidad 81082) to Milepost 15.11 in Segundo (no zip code), a distance of 13.11 miles in Las Animas County, Colorado. The right-of-way is of a line of railroad authorized for abandonment by Decision of the Board, served October 2, 2002.

A map of the railroad line is attached.

ATA acknowledges that use of the right-of-way segments is subject to the user's continuing obligation to meet its responsibilities described above and subject to possible future reconstruction and reactivation of the right-of-way for rail service.

A copy of this statement is being served on counsel for KVR on the same date it is being

served on the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

AMERICAN TRAILS ASSOCIATION, INC.

By its attorney,



Fritz R. Kahn

Fritz R. Kahn, P.C.

1920 N Street, NW (8th fl.)

Washington, DC 20036-1601

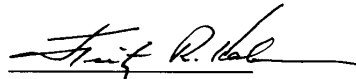
Tel.: (202) 263-4152

Dated: August 6, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

A copy of the foregoing Statement of the American Trails Association, Inc., this day was served by me by mailing a copy thereof, by prepaid first-class mail, to counsel for Kern Valley Railroad Company.

Dated at Washington, DC, this 6th day of August 2003.


Fritz R. Kahn

VERIFICATION

I, Morris H. Kulmer, President of American Trails Association, Inc., declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the United States of America, that I have read the foregoing Statement of Willingness to Assume Financial Responsibility of American Trails Association, Inc., and that its assertions are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I further declare that I am qualified and authorized to submit this verification on behalf of American Trails Association, Inc.. I know that willful misstatements or omissions of material facts constitute Federal criminal violations punishable under 18 U.S.C. 1001 by imprisonment up to five years and fines up to \$10,000 for each offense. Additionally, these misstatements are punishable as perjury under 18 U.S.C. 1621, which provides for fines up to \$2,000 or imprisonment up to five years for each offense.

Dated at Salt Lake City, UT, this 4th day of August 2003.



Morris H. Kulmer