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November 22, 2005

BY HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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Office of Proceedings

NOV 22 2005

Part of
Public Record

RE: Finance Docket No. 34337
*Michael H. Meyer, Trustee In Bankruptcy For California Western
Railroad, Inc. v. North Coast Railroad Authority*

Dear Secretary Williams:

North Coast Railroad Authority ("NCRA") hereby submits its opposition to the request of Michael H. Meyer, Trustee in Bankruptcy for California Western Railroad, Inc. ("Trustee") to extend the procedural schedule set forth in the Board's decision issued on November 18, 2005. The basis for the Trustee's claim is that Trustee's counsel cannot prepare his case in twenty days. This claim is specious at best.

As Trustee's counsel acknowledges, this case was first initiated on December 1, 2004. Meyer became trustee of California Western Railroad in January 2003, and the facts on which the complaint is based occurred prior to September 2002. The Trustee has thus had nearly three years to gather information in preparation for litigation. As the complainant, the Trustee and his counsel can reasonably be expected to have assessed the basis of their claim, including the supporting facts, before initiating the complaint. Presenting that information within the periods set by the Board is not an unreasonable burden. Indeed, the Trustee and his counsel have already gathered and filed verified statements in their previously filed petition to reopen. Certainly, counsel can resubmit that evidence and any other evidence gathered over the past three years within twenty days.

Granting an extension simply prolongs the legal expense and processing of a proceeding that NCRA believes is meritless. Moreover, NCRA intends to issue a request for proposals in December seeking a replacement operator on the line in issue. The pendency of this proceeding complicates that process and may compromise the continuing effort to restore the line to service.

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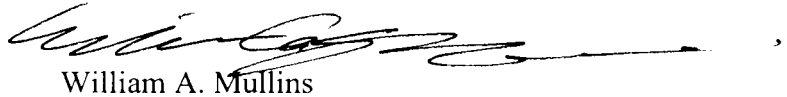
Honorable Vernon A. Williams

November 22, 2005

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An original and eleven copies of this letter are enclosed for your records. Please acknowledge the receipt and docketing of this letter by receipt stamping the eleventh copy hereof enclosed for that purpose and returning same to the person making this filing, for return to me. If there are any questions concerning this filing, please contact me.

Sincerely,



William A. Mullins

cc: Parties of Record

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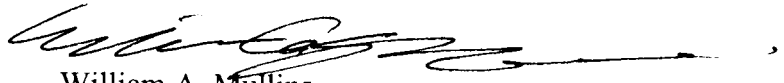
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