



North Coast Railroad Authority

419 Talmage Road, Suite M
Ukiah, CA 95482

December 15, 2010

Humboldt County Planning Commission
3015 H St # 1
Eureka, CA 95501-4484

Sent via: fax

Dear Commissioners:

It has come to my attention that the Humboldt County Planning Commission will continue its review and discussion of the Circulation Element of the Humboldt County General Plan on December 16.

On behalf of the North Coast Railroad Authority Board of Directors (NCRA), I wanted to take this opportunity to restate NCRA policy as it may relate to Policy C-P35 "Development of Railroad Rights-of-Ways for Bicycles and Pedestrians."

As you know, the legislation that created the NCRA, Government Code Section 93000, et seq. was enacted to restore and preserve rail service on the North Coast. To adhere to the requirements of this state mandate, NCRA has adopted "Rails-with-Trails" Guidelines that stipulate, among other things, that "Rails-with-Trails projects will not be approved that adversely affect either NCRA's or its Operator's ability to provide safe and efficient current or future freight and passenger transportation," on the NWP line. The NCRA Board also has had a long-standing policy that paving-over, or otherwise altering the rail bed in a way that prevents the safe and efficient operation of rail service on the mainline from Brazos Junction to Samoa, is a violation of NCRA's state mandate. This policy would obviously apply to the NCRA mainline between Eureka and Arcata.

As you consider C-P35, we trust that you will abide by NCRA's policy and the state mandate enunciated in State Government Code 93000, et seq. Thank you very much for your consideration of NCRA's position on this issue.

Sincerely,

Allan Hemphill, Chairman
North Coast Railroad Authority