

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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March 20, 2006

SERVICE AUTHORITY
FOR FREEWAY
EMERGENCIES
(SAFE)

Santa Cruz County Regional
Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RAIL/TRAIL
AUTHORITY

RE: PURCHASE OF THE RAIL RIGHT-OF-WAY

Dear Fellow Commissioners:

COMMUTE
SOLUTIONS

Over the course of the past several months, the two of us have spent quite a bit of time walking the rail line corridor. It has been a pleasurable and eye-opening experience. The rail line traverses areas of amazing beauty, quiet solitude, busy intersections, and residential neighborhoods. As we have walked, we have seen areas on the rail line that seem to indicate a lack of maintenance by Union Pacific. Like anyone purchasing property, we believe that it is critical that the Commission have a full and complete picture of the property being purchased. Neither of us is qualified to tell the Commission whether the areas of neglect are serious enough to warrant the Commission's attention or not.

TRANSPORTATION
POLICY WORKSHOP

BUDGET &
ADMINISTRATION
PERSONNEL
COMMITTEE

INTERAGENCY
TECHNICAL
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

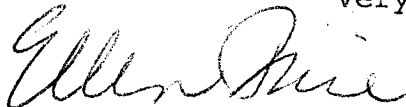
In discussing these issues with staff, it became apparent that the RTC does not have the detailed information about the physical condition of the rail right-of-way (ROW) that it needs. It is important at this time that a qualified person assure us that the physical condition of the entire ROW will not become a financial burden to the rail authority.

BICYCLE COMMITTEE

ELDERLY & DISABLED
TRANSPORTATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Accordingly, we recommend that the Commission direct staff, in consultation with the Rail Acquisition Task Force, to verify that this information is not currently available to the Commission and, if it is not, return to the Commission with a recommendation for obtaining information about the physical condition of the entire ROW, as well as information about the cost implications of any significant problems.

Very truly yours,



ELLEN PIRIE, Commissioner



DENNIS NORTON, Commissioner

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