DRAFT PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NORTH COAST RAILROAD AUTHORITY CONCERNING THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF ITS AD HOC HUMBOLDT BAY RAIL CORRIDOR COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the County of Humboldt petitioned the North Coast Railroad Authority in June, 2012 to engage the community in an inquiry into how best to pursue public trail development in NCRA's northern Humboldt Bay rail corridor; and

WHEREAS, NCRA created a Humboldt Bay Rail Corridor Committee with which to engage the Humboldt County community in response to its request; and

WHEREAS, NCRA's Humboldt Bay Rail Corridor Ad Hoc Committee convened three well-attended public meetings in Eureka, California during September and October, 2012 for the purpose of receiving technical information and community guidance concerning the condition of NCRA's northern Humboldt Bay rail infrastructure, opportunities for trail development in the rail corridor; and the prospects for rail service resurrection in the corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Committee's three public meetings made abundantly clear there is enormous potential for collaboration among community interest groups and public agencies, including trail advocates, rail advocates, the California Department of Transportation, the California Coastal Commission, the California Coastal Conservancy, local transportation planning and funding and public works agencies , for the purpose of defining rail restoration and trail development opportunities in NCRA's Humboldt Bay rail corridor and for pursuing funding opportunities to enable such restoration and development; and

WHEREAS, the NCRA board of directors, meeting in Eureka, California on 14 November 2012 accepted a draft report of its Humboldt Bay Rail Corridor Committee and received comments on the report from its Operator and the interested public; and

Whereas, the NCRA Humboldt Bay Rail Corridor Committee has incorporated comments received on its draft report into a final report of findings and recommendations in advance of the NCRA's board's 12 December 2012 meeting in Eureka,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCRA welcomes the opportunity for community collaboration on this issue and hereby declares its policy concerning the aforementioned matters to be as follows:

- NCRA states its support for a broad-based community coalition to advocate for the investment of public and private funds to restore the Humboldt Bay rail corridor, in whole or in part, clearly incorporating rail and trail development into such restoration, generally consistent with NCRA trail policy;

- NCRA will work with the Northwestern Pacific Railroad Co., the Timber Heritage Association and others to build interest in, and support for the restoration of local freight and passenger excursion service;
- NCRA will authorize clearly defined and strictly limited exceptions to its current trail policy to enable development of a trail in the Humboldt Bay corridor without compromising the prospects of rail service restoration;
- NCRA will prioritize rail infrastructure restoration and trail development in the Eureka to Arcata corridor to more clearly align its timing and objectives with those of the Humboldt County Association of Governments'/Caltrans' U.S. 101 Corridor Improvement Project.
- NCRA will also prioritize rail restoration in the Arcata to Samoa corridor in order to facilitate the restoration of passenger excursion service.