

OCT 02 2017



Manila Community Services District

1901 Park Street • Arcata, CA 95521 • 707-444-3803 • Fax 707-444-0231

Board of Directors

John Woolley, President
Jan Bramlett, Vice President
Carol VanderMeer, Finance Officer
Carla Leopardo, Secretary
Dendra Dengler, Safety Officer

General Manager

Christopher Drop

September 21, 2017

Mitch Stogner, Executive Director
North Coast Railroad Authority
419 Talmage Road, Suite M
Ukiah, CA 95482

Re: California Transportation Commission Request for Shutdown Plan

Dear Mr. Stogner:

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) requested at its June 29, 2017 meeting that the North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA) return in October to present both a business plan and a shutdown plan to address the NCRA's financial stability. Also at that meeting, a representative from the Northwest Pacific Railroad Company, which holds an option to provide rail freight operations on the northern portion of NCRA's railroad line, indicated that the company is not planning to operate on the northern portion (Mendocino and Humboldt Counties).

The CTC's June 29, 2017 request may prompt discussions regarding the future disposition of the railroad corridor and NCRA's property interests and physical infrastructure situated within the community of Manila. The NCRA railroad line is an important transportation asset and the Manila Community Services District Board of Directors strongly support preservation of the railroad right of way for public transportation benefits. In addition, portions of the railroad line present concerns for flooding vulnerability, environmental impacts, and/or public safety due to their deteriorated condition. These and other issues important to our community should be addressed as part of discussions regarding a potential shutdown.

The Manila Community Services District Board of Directors requests that we be included in discussions regarding development of a potential shutdown plan for the NCRA and the future disposition of NCRA's railroad line within our county. Please communicate directly with me at 707-444-3803.

Sincerely,

Christopher Drop

General Manager