



MEMO

To: NCRA Board of Directors

From: Executive Director Stogner

Date: May 26, 2020

Subject: **Agenda Item E.2 – Discussion and Possible Action Regarding NCRA Executive Director Contract Renewal**

SB 1029(McGuire) and the follow-up bill pending in the State Assembly, SB 356 (McGuire), will establish the process and timeline for the final dissolution of the NCRA. The goal is the transfer of freight responsibility to the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District (SMART) and the creation of a world-class Great Redwood Trail through the Eel River Canyon and around the Port of Humboldt Bay.

Since January 1, 2019, the NCRA's primary mission has been to assist the California Transportation Agency (CalSTA), the State Department of Finance and Sen. McGuire's staff as they undertake the assessment necessary to effectuate the orderly dissolution of NCRA and reallocation of the assets and liabilities accumulated since NCRA was created by the state in 1989.

Thankfully, SB 1029 (McGuire) and SB 356 (McGuire) establish the State of California as a full-fledged partner in what has been NCRA's ongoing battle to preserve and restore this unbroken 316 mile rail corridor from the national rail interchange in Napa County to the Port of Humboldt Bay.

To complete this process, I am hereby requesting an extension of my current employment contract with the NCRA, under identical terms with no changes to compensation or other benefits, until the dissolution is complete, and a successor agency is established. Thanks very much for your consideration of this request.