



MEMO

To: NCRA Board of Directors
From: Executive Director Stogner
Date: March 14, 2022
Subject: **Agenda Item G.2(a)** – Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Approval of Consultant Agreements in Support of Rail banking Application - Appraisal

Under authority granted by the Board of Directors of the North Coast Railroad Authority in February 2021, counsel for NCRA filed an application with the Surface Transportation Board for abandonment and railbanking of its right of way north of Mile Post 139.5. The abandonment filing is currently pending with the STB and is presently on hold on the basis of certain jurisdictional matters regarding which STB has determined must be settled prior to completion of the proceeding.

Based upon the filings made to date in the STB proceedings, staff recommends that the Board of Directors of the Great Redwood Trail Agency, as the successor body to the North Coast Railroad Authority Board of Directors, authorize the Executive Director to engage Edward D. Biggs III, LLC to provide a valuation of the NCRA right of way from Willits, CA to Samoa, CA, in a form approved by counsel, for a contract amount of \$30,000. Staff further requests authority to authorize extra work related to the valuation of the line to be performed by Edward D. Biggs III, LLC, if such extra work is determined by counsel to be reasonably necessary in connection with the successful completion of the railbanking process, in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.

Staff Recommendation.

Authorize the Executive Director to execute a consulting agreement with Edward D. Biggs III, LLC in the amount of \$30,000, in a form approved by counsel, with extra work to be authorized by the Executive Director as needed in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.