

NOTICE OF PREPARATION  
of an  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT  
for the  
NORTH COAST RAILROAD AUTHORITY RUSSIAN RIVER DIVISION FREIGHT  
RAIL PROJECT

The North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA), headquartered in Mendocino County, will be preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the North Coast Railroad Authority Russian River Division Freight Rail Project (Project). NCRA has proposed this project to resume freight rail service along a 142-mile corridor from Willits, Mendocino County southward to Lombard, Napa County. The rail corridor, commonly known as the Northwestern Pacific Railroad (NWP), generally parallels US 101 running north-south in Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin counties. In Novato, Marin County, the rail corridor turns east and runs along California Highways 37 and 121 to Lombard, Napa County. Freight service will not extend south of the US 101 interchange with California Highway 37. Additionally, this project does not propose nor authorize freight service north of Willits.

Mendocino, Sonoma, Marin, and Napa counties are located on the west coast of California north of San Francisco. In Mendocino County, the incorporated local jurisdictions in the proposed project corridor include the Cities of Willits and Ukiah. In Sonoma County, the incorporated local jurisdictions in the proposed project corridor include the Cities of Cloverdale, Healdsburg, Windsor, Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Cotati and Petaluma. In Marin County, the incorporated local jurisdiction in the project corridor includes the City of Novato. The Napa County portion of the project does not traverse any city boundaries and is completely in unincorporated County lands.

NWP Co., NCRA's selected rail operator, proposes to resume the operations of freight service in the rail corridor from Willits to Lombard for transport of general freight to serve the communities in the rail corridor. In this rail corridor, NWP Co. could also transport solid waste to landfills beyond the four-county area, replacing the truck hauling currently used for this service. The project does not propose the transport of hazardous waste, dangerous, highly flammable or explosive material. This area has historically been serviced by the railroad and this project will reestablish reliable and cost effective service to the businesses and public utility entities within the service area, and resumes service to former customers whose businesses have been adversely impacted by the lack of service.

The need for a cost-efficient, alternative method of transportation to deliver commercial goods and freight in the area is supported by:

- Capacity constraints on existing systems, particularly U.S. and CA Highways 101, 121, 37, and 12 that result in travel delays and congestion. The rail service would remove a portion of the current commercial truck traffic on the roadways thus reducing traffic congestion "Depending on the density of the commodity, one railcar may move the same weight or volume as four or five trucks."

Freight-Rail Bottom Line Report, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, January 2003, p. 26)

- Increasing unreliability and safety concerns of existing travel modes due to congestion, inclement weather, and accidents. A reduction in the number of commercial trucks on the local roadways will result in increased safety on the roads.
- The absence of four-lane highways and freeways connecting U.S. Highway 101 with Interstate Highway 80.
- By removing a portion of the current commercial (freight including solid waste) truck traffic on the roadways, rail service would decrease diesel emissions from trucks, resulting in a net improvement in air quality and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Movement of freight on rail is measurably more efficient. One ton of goods can be moved more than 400 miles with one gallon of fuel according to the Association of American Railroads' Railroad Facts, 2003 Edition.

The purpose of the proposed project is to provide efficient, reliable, and cost-effective rail service in Mendocino, Sonoma, Marin, and Napa counties. The following project objectives have been identified to achieve this goal:

- Provide an alternative transportation option to trucking for commercial freight across the four-County area.
- Provide an alternative transportation option to trucking for hauling solid waste across the four-county area.
- Provide an alternative cost-effective option to the disposal of solid waste in local landfills.
- Fulfill the State mandate to provide the continuation of railroad service to Northwestern California and help alleviate the growing concerns for efficient goods movement.

An Initial Study has been prepared in order to address potential impacts associated with the proposed project, which includes operations and features supporting operations. The Initial Study is attached to this Notice of Preparation, and contains the following: a project description; a map showing the location of the project, the potential environmental impacts associated with the project; and mitigation measures to reduce impacts to less than significant levels. In summary, potential significant environmental impacts associated with the project have been identified, and therefore, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be prepared under CEQA.

Pursuant to State and local guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), please be advised that the NCRA will be the Lead Agency for the





**KLEINFELDER**  
 5015 SHOREHAM PLACE  
 SAN DIEGO, CA 92122  
 PHONE: 858-320-2000  
 FAX: 858-320-2001

APPROVED BY:  
 Bradley Erskine

**PROJECT LOCATION**

NORTH COAST RAILROAD AUTHORITY  
 RUSSIAN RIVER DIVISION  
 FREIGHT RAIL PROJECT

PROJECT NO: 78207      FILE NAME: EIR\_project\_location\_1.mxd

DRAWN: 05/15/2007	REVISION: C
DRAFTED BY: GT/BT	
CHECKED BY: BE	
PLATE:	<b>Figure 2 - 1</b>

**North Coast Railroad Authority Russian River Division Freight Rail Project  
Notice of Preparation and Initial Study Distribution List  
July 10, 2007**

State Clearinghouse  
PO Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County of Humboldt  
Clerk of the Board  
825 5<sup>th</sup> St Ste 111  
Eureka CA 95501

County of Trinity  
Clerk of the Board  
11 Court St.  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Sonoma County Recorder  
585 Fiscal Drive, Suite 103-F  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Napa County  
Carithers Building  
900 Coombs, Room 116  
Napa, CA 94559

Mendocino County Assessor-County Clerk-  
Recorder  
501 Low Gap Rd., Room 1020  
Ukiah, CA 95482

County of Marin  
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 232  
San Rafael, CA 94903

Dan Keen, City Manager  
City of Novato  
75 Rowland Way, #200  
Novato, CA 94945

Mike Bierman, City Manager  
City of Petaluma  
11 English St.  
Petaluma, CA 94952

Stephen R. Donley, City Manager  
City of Rohnert Park  
6750 Commerce Blvd  
Rohnert Park, CA 94928

Terry L. Stubbings, City Manager  
City of Cotati  
201 West Sierra Ave.  
Cotati, CA 94931

Jeff Kolin, City Manager  
City of Santa Rosa City Hall, Room #10  
100 Santa Rosa Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

J. Matthew Mullan, Town Manager  
Town of Windsor  
9291 Old Redwood Highway  
Windsor, CA 95492

Michael Fuson, City Manager  
City of Sonoma  
1 The Plaza  
Sonoma, CA 95476

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Regulatory Branch  
Ms. Jane Hicks  
1455 Market Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103-1398

Bay Area AQMD  
939 Ellis Street  
San Francisco, CA 94109-7799

Mendocino County AQMD  
306 E. Gobbi St.  
Ukiah, CA 95482-5511

Northern Sonoma County APCD  
150 Matheson Street  
Healdsburg, CA 95448-4908

Jan Goebel  
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control  
Board (Region 1)  
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Patti Barni  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
700 Heinz Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94710

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Attorney General's Office  
California Department of Justice  
Attn: Rose Fua  
P.O. Box 944255  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550

San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality  
Control Board  
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400  
Oakland, CA 94612

Ms. Cheryl Willis  
California Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 3700  
Eureka, CA 95502

California Department of Fish and Game  
Bay-Delta Region  
7329 Silverado Trail  
Napa, CA 94558

California Department of Fish and Game  
Northern Region  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
2800 Cottage Way  
Room W-2605  
Sacramento, CA 95825

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1655 Heindon Road  
Arcata, CA 95521

National Marine Fisheries Service  
Southwest Regional Office  
Rod McInnis  
501 West Ocean Blvd.  
Long Beach, CA 90802-4213

David Stewart  
California Public Utilities Commission  
515 L Street, Suite 1119  
Sacramento, CA 95814

National Marine Fisheries Service  
Dick Butler  
777 Sonoma Ave., Room 325  
Sonoma, CA 95404

San Francisco Bay Conservation and  
Development Commission  
50 California Street, 26<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94111

California State Lands Commission  
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Office of Historic Preservation  
California Department of Parks and  
Recreation  
Attn: Milford Wayne Donaldson  
1416 9th Street, Room 1442-7  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Eureka Public Library  
1313 3rd Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

Santa Rosa Public Library  
211 E Street  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

St. Helena Public Library  
1492 Library Lane  
St. Helena, CA 94574

Weaverville Public Library  
PO Box 1226  
Weaverville, CA 96093

San Rafael Public Library  
3501 Civic Center Drive, Rm 414  
San Rafael, CA 94903

Ukiah Public Library  
105 N. Main Street  
Ukiah, CA 95482

Chet Westpac, City Manager  
City of Healdsburg  
401 Grove Street  
Healdsburg, Ca 95448

Friends of the Eel River  
PO Box 2305  
Redway, Ca 95560

**North Coast Railroad Authority Russian River Division Freight Rail Project  
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David Keller  
Friends of the Eel River  
1327 "I" St  
Petaluma, Ca 94952

Ellison Folk  
Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger  
396 Hays Street  
San Francisco, Ca 94102

Ulrike Giessel  
300 Jewett Rd  
Garberville, Ca 95542

Vincent Long, City Manager  
City of Cloverdale  
124 N. Cloverdale Bl.  
Cloverdale, CA 95425

Candace Horsley, City Manager  
City of Ukiah  
c/o City Clerk's Office  
300 Seminary Avenue  
Ukiah, CA 95482

Ross Walker, City Manager  
City of Willits  
111 E. Commercial Street  
Willits, CA 95490



North Coast Railroad Authority  
419 Talmage Road, Suite M  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
(707) 463-3280  
<http://www.northcoastrailroad.org>

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### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING**

**North Coast Railroad Authority Russian River Division Freight Rail Project**  
**Tuesday – July 31, 2007**  
**6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**  
**Novato Unified School District Education Center**  
**1015 Seventh Street**  
**Novato, CA 94945**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA) will hold a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting to seek input for its Draft Environmental Impact Report. NCRA is in the early phases of preparing an EIR for the NCRA Russian River Division Freight Rail Project (Project). NCRA has proposed this project to resume freight rail service along a 142-mile corridor from Willits, Mendocino County southward to Lombard, Napa County. The rail corridor, commonly known as the Northwestern Pacific Railroad (NWP), generally parallels US 101 running north-south in Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin counties. In Novato, Marin County, the rail corridor turns east and runs along California Highways 37 and 121 to Lombard, Napa County. Freight service will not extend south of the US 101 interchange with California Highway 37. Additionally, this project does not propose nor authorize freight service north of Willits.

#### **SCOPING MEETING AGENDA**

1. Introduction – Marin County Supervisor and NCRA Board Member Judy Arnold (5 minutes)
2. Purpose of Tonight's Meeting (5 minutes)
3. Overview of Proposed Project (10 minutes)
4. Overview of Environmental Review Process (5 minutes)
5. Public Comments (limited to 3 minutes per person and organization)
6. Next Steps and Closing Comments (5 minutes)

This is a public meeting where NCRA Board members have been invited to listen as part of the public, but not participate in an official capacity.

#### **AVAILABILITY OF THE SCOPING DOCUMENT**

The Notice of Preparation and the Initial Study for the Project are posted at NCRA's website: <http://www.northcoastrailroad.org>. You may also receive a copy by contacting: Heather Newell, NCRA, 419 Talmage Road, Suite M, Ukiah, CA 95482, (707) 463-3280, Fax: 707-463-3282, email: [ncra.heather@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ncra.heather@sbcglobal.net).

#### **SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS**

NCRA will accept oral comments at the scoping meeting and written comments submitted no later than 5 p.m. on August 31, 2007 to Mitch Stogner, Executive Director, NCRA 419 Talmage Road, Suite M, Ukiah, CA 95482 (Fax: 707-463-3282, email: [ncra.heather@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ncra.heather@sbcglobal.net)). Please include "Comment Letter – RRD EIR" in the subject line. Please forward the above information to the attention of anyone you know would be interested in this matter.



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Pursuant to State and local guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), please be advised that the NCRA will be the Lead Agency for the

Russian River Division Freight Rail Project environmental review. Pursuant to CEQA the NCRA has determined that an EIR is required. The EIR will focus on the following topical issues:

1) Land Use & Planning	6) Biological Resources
2) Geology/Soils	7) Hazards/Hazardous Materials
3) Hydrology/Water Quality	8) Noise
4) Air Quality	9) Cultural Resources
5) Transportation/Traffic	

To ensure that the EIR for the Russian river Division Freight Rail Project is thorough and adequate, and meets the needs of all agencies reviewing it, we are soliciting comments on specific issues to be included in the environmental review. Public comments on the scope of issues to be evaluated in the EIR are encouraged. The Initial Study is posted on the NCRA's website at <http://www.northcoastrailroad.org> and is also available for review at the public libraries listed below, and at the NCRA's offices located at 419 Talmage Road, Suite M, Ukiah, CA 95482 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Please submit your written comments to David Anderson at the address shown above by 5:00 p.m., August 15, 2007. Comment letters should clearly identify the subject of the comments as the NOP for the NCRA Russian River Division Freight Rail Project. Please also provide the name of the appropriate contact person at your agency/organization. Comments by FAX or e-mail may not be able to be confirmed as officially received and accepted before the end of the comment period deadline. Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date; however, **Commenter's are advised to mail written comments postmarked on or before August 8, 2007.**

/s/ Mitch Stogner  
 Mitch Stogner, Environmental Officer

7-10-07  
 Date



**KLEINFELDER**  
 5015 SHOREHAM PLACE  
 SAN DIEGO, CA 92122  
 PHONE: 858-320-2000  
 FAX: 858-320-2001

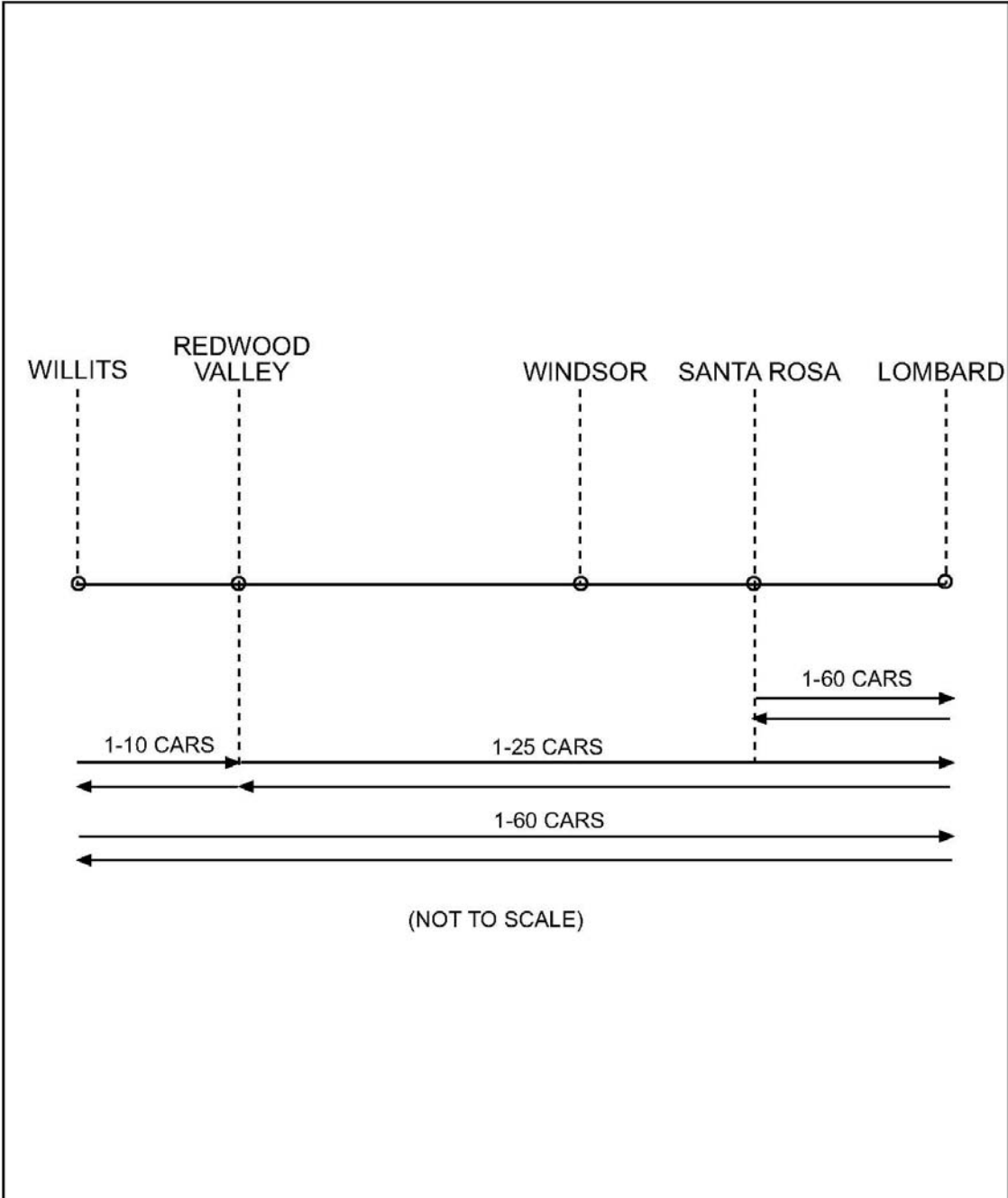
APPROVED BY:  
 Bradley Erskine


**PROJECT LOCATION**

NORTH COAST RAILROAD AUTHORITY  
 RUSSIAN RIVER DIVISION  
 FREIGHT RAIL PROJECT

PROJECT NO: 78207      FILE NAME: EIR\_project\_location\_1.mxd

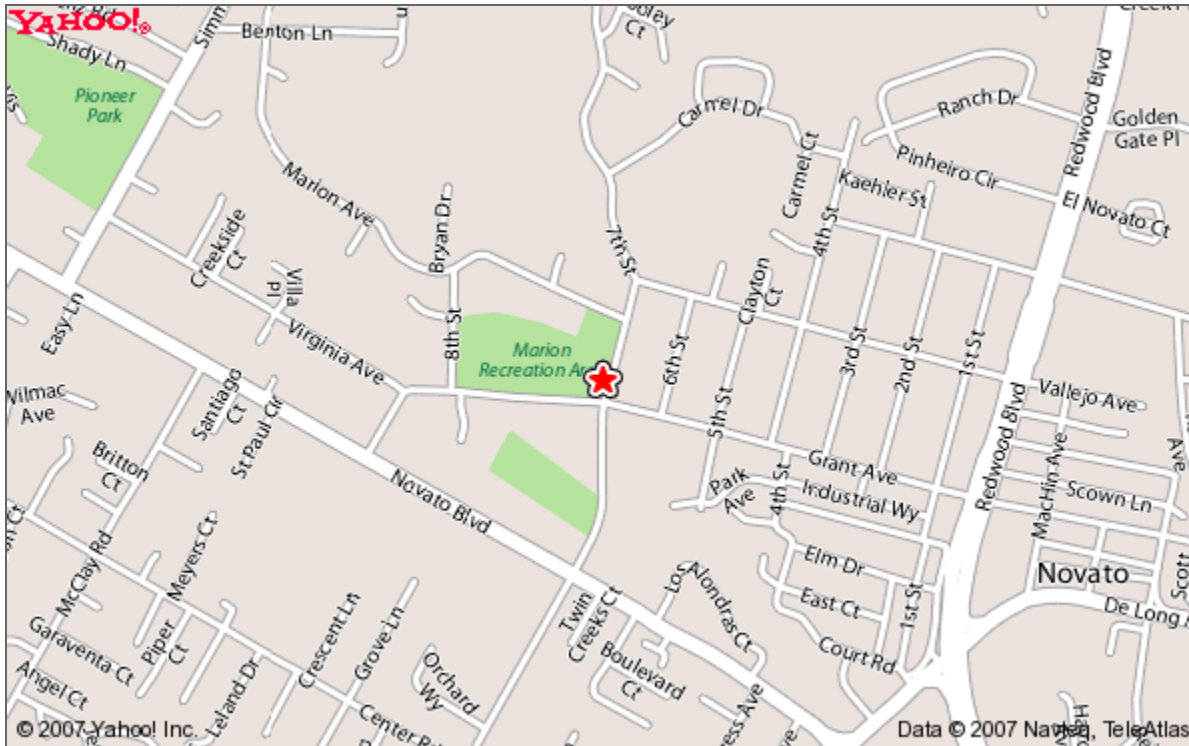
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CHECKED BY:	BE
PLATE:	
<b>Figure 2 - 1</b>	



	NUMBER OF FREIGHT TRAINS AND THEIR CARS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS ALONG THE RAIL CORRIDOR		FIGURE NO. <b>2-2</b>
	DRAFTED BY: S CALLAHAN	FILE NO: Fig2_2.fh11	
PROJECT NO: 78207	DATE: 07-10-07		

## Novato Unified School District (415) 897-7653

Yahoo! Maps - 1015 7TH ST, Novato, CA 94945, US



When using any driving directions or map, it's a good idea to do a reality check and make sure the road still exists, watch out for construction, and follow all traffic safety precautions. This is only to be used as an aid in planning.

**LOCATION OF JULY 31, 2007 SCOPING MEETING 6:30 PM AT THE  
NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS**



North Coast Railroad Authority  
419 Talmage Road, Suite M  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
(707) 463-3280  
<http://www.northcoastrailroad.org>

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### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING**

**North Coast Railroad Authority Russian River Division Freight Rail Project  
Wednesday – August 29, 2007**

**7 p.m. – 9 p.m.**

**City Council Chambers  
City of Santa Rosa City Hall  
100 Santa Rosa Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404**

The public meeting facility is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact NCRA at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting at (707) 463-3280.

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This is a public meeting where NCRA Board members have been invited to listen as part of the public, but not participate in an official capacity.

### **AVAILABILITY OF THE SCOPING DOCUMENT**

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### **ATTACHMENTS**

Notice of Preparation  
Figure 2-1 Project Location  
Figure 2-2 Number of Freight Trains and Their Cars at Various Locations along the Rail Corridor

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/s/ Mitch Stogner  
 Mitch Stogner, Environmental Officer

7-10-07  
 Date



**KLEINFELDER**  
 5015 SHOREHAM PLACE  
 SAN DIEGO, CA 92122  
 PHONE: 858-320-2000  
 FAX: 858-320-2001

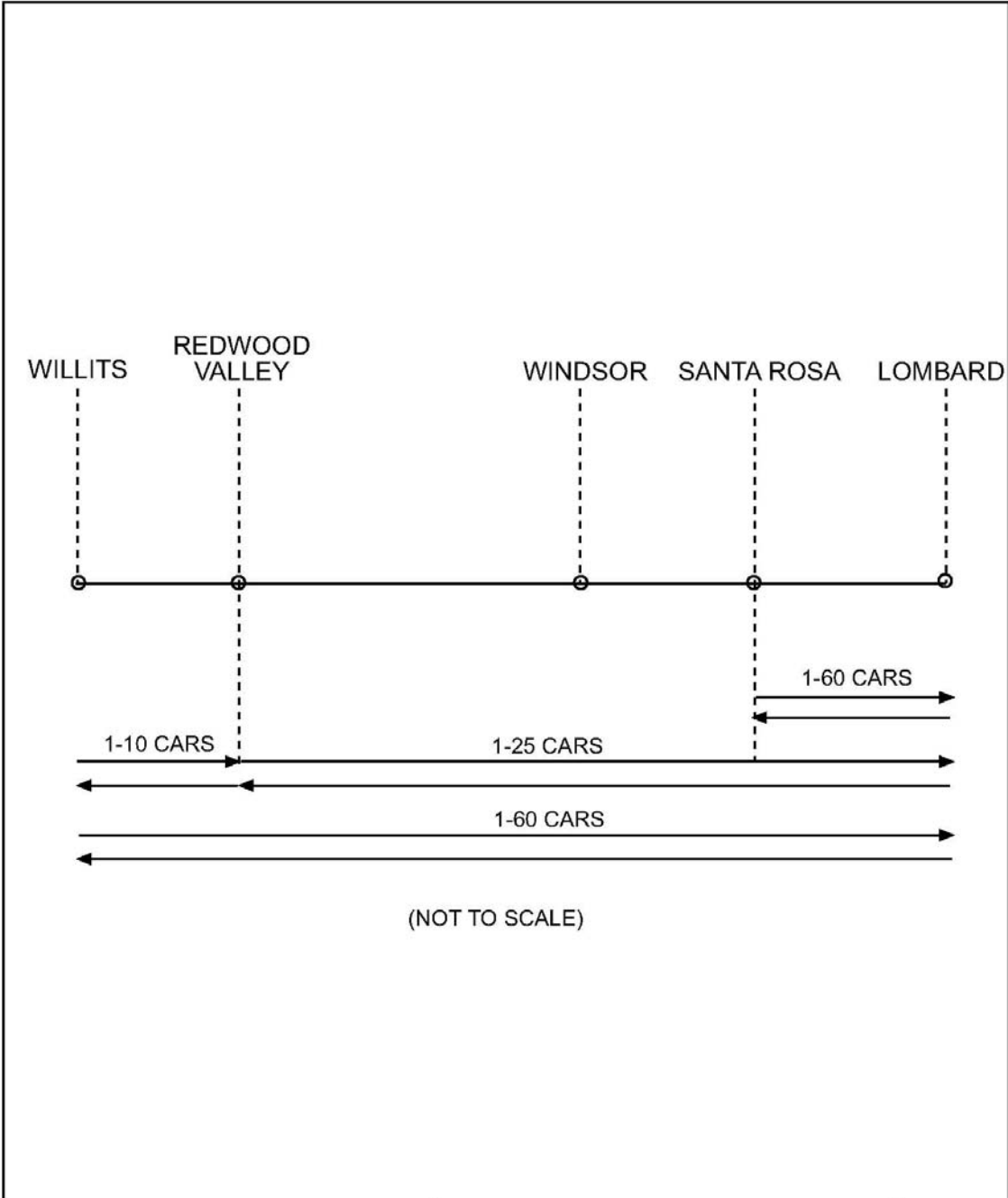
APPROVED BY:  
 Bradley Erskine


**PROJECT LOCATION**

NORTH COAST RAILROAD AUTHORITY  
 RUSSIAN RIVER DIVISION  
 FREIGHT RAIL PROJECT

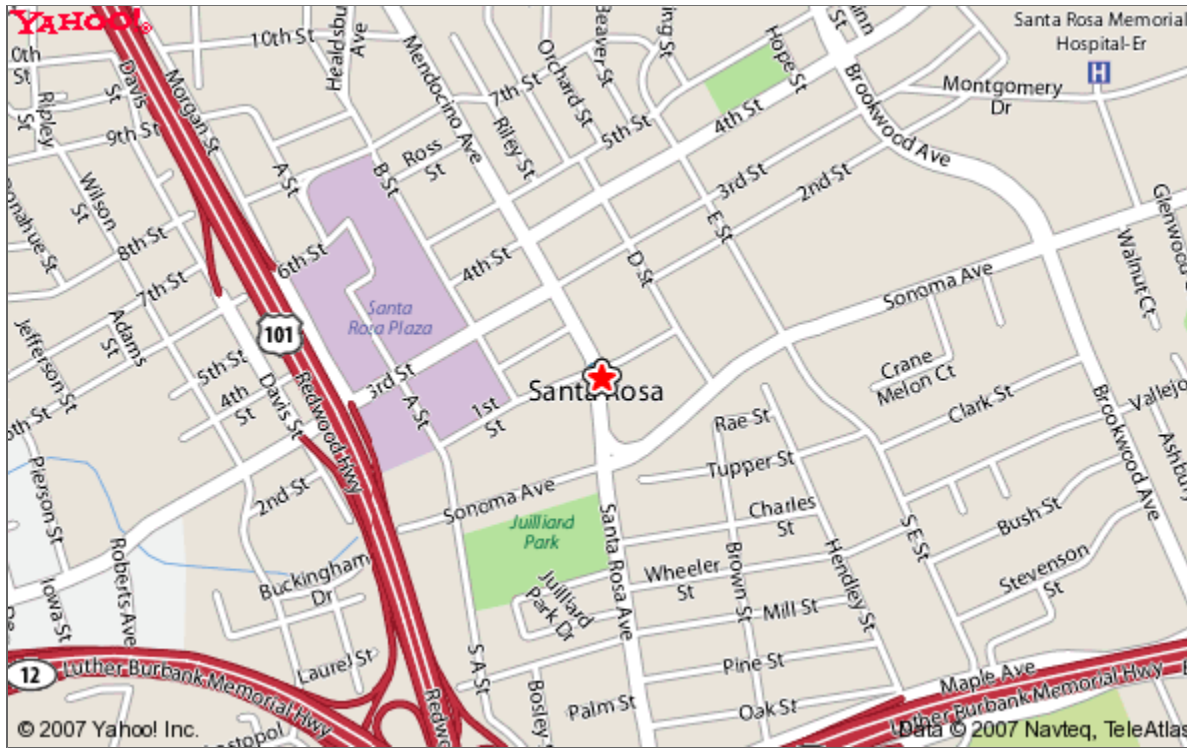
PROJECT NO: 78207      FILE NAME: EIR\_project\_location\_1.mxd

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<b>Figure 2 - 1</b>	



	NUMBER OF FREIGHT TRAINS AND THEIR CARS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS ALONG THE RAIL CORRIDOR		FIGURE NO. <b>2-2</b>
	DRAFTED BY: S CALLAHAN	FILE NO: Fig2_2.fh11	
PROJECT NO: 78207	DATE: 07-10-07		

# Yahoo! Maps - 100 SANTA ROSA AVE, Santa Rosa, CA 95404, US



When using any driving directions or map, it's a good idea to do a reality check and make sure the road still exists, watch out for construction, and follow all traffic safety precautions. This is only to be used as an aid in planning.

LOCATION MAP OF AUGUST 29, 2007 SCOPING MEETING  
CITY OF SANTA ROSA COUNCIL CHAMBERS



North Coast Railroad Authority  
419 Talmage Road, Suite M  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
(707) 463-3280  
<http://www.northcoastrailroad.org>

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To: Resource Agencies, Cities, Counties, and Interested Parties

From: North Coast Railroad Authority

**NOTICE OF CEQA PUBLIC AGENCY SCOPING MEETING**  
**North Coast Railroad Authority Russian River Division Freight Rail Project**  
**Friday – August 31, 2007**  
**9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**  
**City Council Chambers**  
**City of Petaluma City Hall**  
**11 English Street Petaluma, CA 94952**

The purpose of this scoping meeting is to obtain comments and questions from Public Agencies regarding the North Coast Railroad Authority Russian River Division Freight Rail Project (Project). CEQA Section 15379 defines a Public Agency to include, *“any state agency, board, or commission and any local or regional agency, as defined in these Guidelines. It does not include the courts of the state. This term does not include agencies of the federal government.”*

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA) will hold a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Public Agency Scoping Meeting to seek input for its Draft Environmental Impact Report. NCRA is in the early phases of preparing an EIR for the Project. NCRA proposes to resume freight rail service along a 142-mile corridor from Willits, Mendocino County southward to Lombard, Napa County. The rail corridor, commonly known as the Northwestern Pacific Railroad (NWP), generally parallels US 101 running north-south in Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin counties. In Novato, Marin County, the rail corridor turns east and runs along California Highways 37 and 121 to Lombard, Napa County. Freight service will not extend south of the US 101 interchange with California Highway 37. Additionally, this project does not propose nor authorize freight service north of Willits. An agenda will be posted by August 6, 2007 on NCRA’s website at <http://www.northcoastrailroad.org>.

**AVAILABILITY OF THE SCOPING DOCUMENT**

The Notice of Preparation and the Initial Study for the Project are posted at NCRA’s website.

**SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS**

NCRA has extended the comment period originally stated in the NOP. NCRA will accept oral comments at the scoping meeting and written comments submitted no later than 5 p.m. on August 31, 2007 to Mitch Stogner, Executive Director, NCRA 419 Talmage Road, Suite M, Ukiah, CA 95482 (email: [ncra.heather@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ncra.heather@sbcglobal.net), fax: 707-463-3282). Please include “Comment Letter – RRD EIR” in the subject line. Please forward the above information to the attention of anyone you know would be interested in this matter.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Notice of Preparation  
Figure 2-1 Project Location  
Figure 2-2 Number of Freight Trains and Their Cars at Various Locations along the Rail Corridor  
Public Agency Scoping Meeting Location Map

NOTICE OF PREPARATION  
of an  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT  
for the  
NORTH COAST RAILROAD AUTHORITY RUSSIAN RIVER DIVISION FREIGHT  
RAIL PROJECT

The North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA), headquartered in Mendocino County, will be preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the North Coast Railroad Authority Russian River Division Freight Rail Project (Project). NCRA has proposed this project to resume freight rail service along a 142-mile corridor from Willits, Mendocino County southward to Lombard, Napa County. The rail corridor, commonly known as the Northwestern Pacific Railroad (NWP), generally parallels US 101 running north-south in Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin counties. In Novato, Marin County, the rail corridor turns east and runs along California Highways 37 and 121 to Lombard, Napa County. Freight service will not extend south of the US 101 interchange with California Highway 37. Additionally, this project does not propose nor authorize freight service north of Willits.

Mendocino, Sonoma, Marin, and Napa counties are located on the west coast of California north of San Francisco. In Mendocino County, the incorporated local jurisdictions in the proposed project corridor include the Cities of Willits and Ukiah. In Sonoma County, the incorporated local jurisdictions in the proposed project corridor include the Cities of Cloverdale, Healdsburg, Windsor, Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Cotati and Petaluma. In Marin County, the incorporated local jurisdiction in the project corridor includes the City of Novato. The Napa County portion of the project does not traverse any city boundaries and is completely in unincorporated County lands.

NWP Co., NCRA's selected rail operator, proposes to resume the operations of freight service in the rail corridor from Willits to Lombard for transport of general freight to serve the communities in the rail corridor. In this rail corridor, NWP Co. could also transport solid waste to landfills beyond the four-county area, replacing the truck hauling currently used for this service. The project does not propose the transport of hazardous waste, dangerous, highly flammable or explosive material. This area has historically been serviced by the railroad and this project will reestablish reliable and cost effective service to the businesses and public utility entities within the service area, and resumes service to former customers whose businesses have been adversely impacted by the lack of service.

The need for a cost-efficient, alternative method of transportation to deliver commercial goods and freight in the area is supported by:

- Capacity constraints on existing systems, particularly U.S. and CA Highways 101, 121, 37, and 12 that result in travel delays and congestion. The rail service would remove a portion of the current commercial truck traffic on the roadways thus reducing traffic congestion "Depending on the density of the commodity, one railcar may move the same weight or volume as four or five trucks."

Freight-Rail Bottom Line Report, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, January 2003, p. 26)

- Increasing unreliability and safety concerns of existing travel modes due to congestion, inclement weather, and accidents. A reduction in the number of commercial trucks on the local roadways will result in increased safety on the roads.
- The absence of four-lane highways and freeways connecting U.S. Highway 101 with Interstate Highway 80.
- By removing a portion of the current commercial (freight including solid waste) truck traffic on the roadways, rail service would decrease diesel emissions from trucks, resulting in a net improvement in air quality and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Movement of freight on rail is measurably more efficient. One ton of goods can be moved more than 400 miles with one gallon of fuel according to the Association of American Railroads' Railroad Facts, 2003 Edition.

The purpose of the proposed project is to provide efficient, reliable, and cost-effective rail service in Mendocino, Sonoma, Marin, and Napa counties. The following project objectives have been identified to achieve this goal:

- Provide an alternative transportation option to trucking for commercial freight across the four-County area.
- Provide an alternative transportation option to trucking for hauling solid waste across the four-county area.
- Provide an alternative cost-effective option to the disposal of solid waste in local landfills.
- Fulfill the State mandate to provide the continuation of railroad service to Northwestern California and help alleviate the growing concerns for efficient goods movement.

An Initial Study has been prepared in order to address potential impacts associated with the proposed project, which includes operations and features supporting operations. The Initial Study is attached to this Notice of Preparation, and contains the following: a project description; a map showing the location of the project, the potential environmental impacts associated with the project; and mitigation measures to reduce impacts to less than significant levels. In summary, potential significant environmental impacts associated with the project have been identified, and therefore, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be prepared under CEQA.

Pursuant to State and local guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), please be advised that the NCRA will be the Lead Agency for the



Russian River Division Freight Rail Project environmental review. Pursuant to CEQA the NCRA has determined that an EIR is required. The EIR will focus on the following topical issues:

1) Land Use & Planning	6) Biological Resources
2) Geology/Soils	7) Hazards/Hazardous Materials
3) Hydrology/Water Quality	8) Noise
4) Air Quality	9) Cultural Resources
5) Transportation/Traffic	

To ensure that the EIR for the Russian river Division Freight Rail Project is thorough and adequate, and meets the needs of all agencies reviewing it, we are soliciting comments on specific issues to be included in the environmental review. Public comments on the scope of issues to be evaluated in the EIR are encouraged. The Initial Study is posted on the NCRA's website at <http://www.northcoastrailroad.org> and is also available for review at the public libraries listed below, and at the NCRA's offices located at 419 Talmage Road, Suite M, Ukiah, CA 95482 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Please submit your written comments to David Anderson at the address shown above by 5:00 p.m., August 15, 2007. Comment letters should clearly identify the subject of the comments as the NOP for the NCRA Russian River Division Freight Rail Project. Please also provide the name of the appropriate contact person at your agency/organization. Comments by FAX or e-mail may not be able to be confirmed as officially received and accepted before the end of the comment period deadline. Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date; however, **Commenter's are advised to mail written comments postmarked on or before August 8, 2007.**

/s/ Mitch Stogner  
 Mitch Stogner, Environmental Officer

7-10-07  
 Date



**KLEINFELDER**  
 5015 SHOREHAM PLACE  
 SAN DIEGO, CA 92122  
 PHONE: 858-320-2000  
 FAX: 858-320-2001

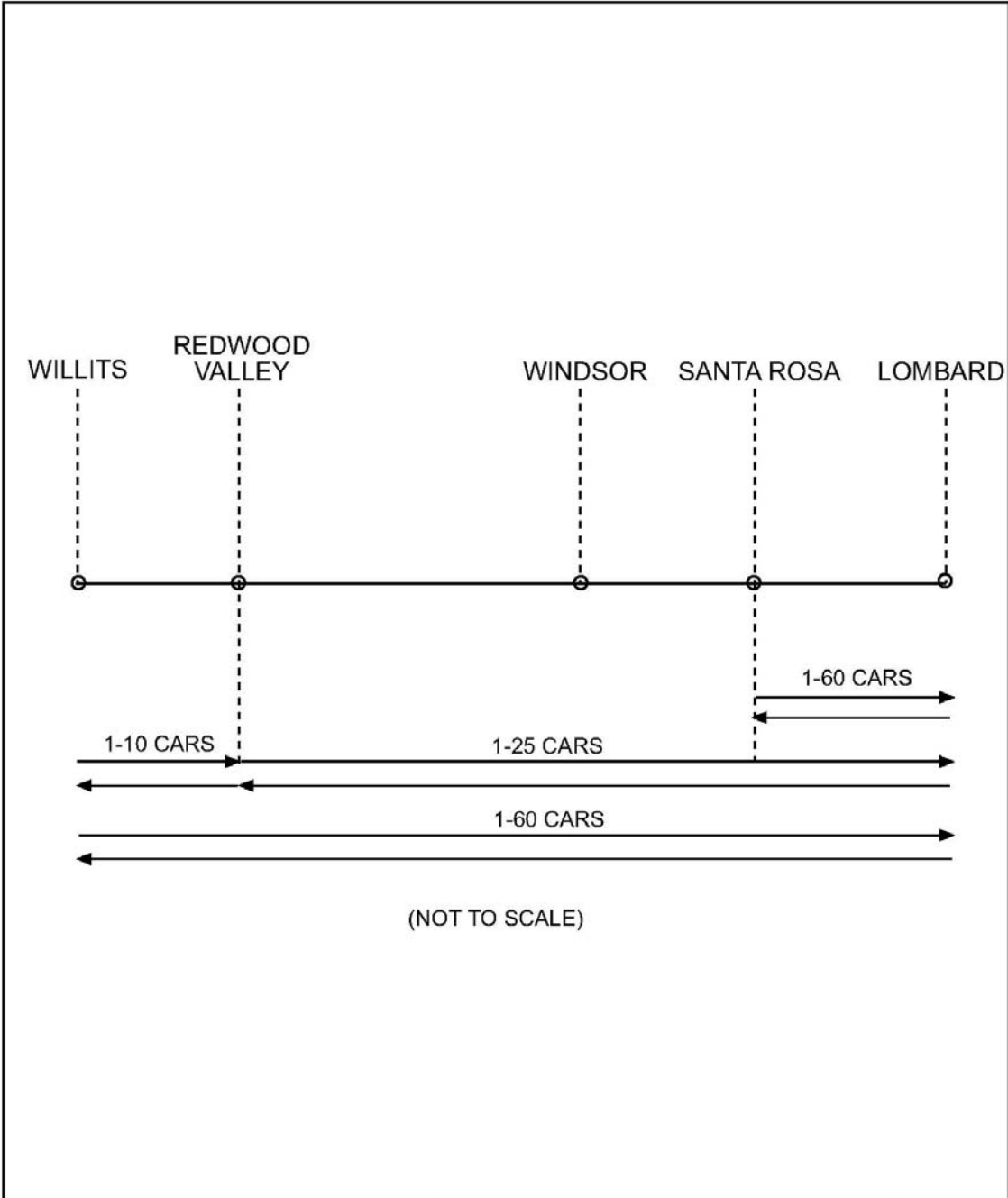
APPROVED BY:  
 Bradley Erskine


**PROJECT LOCATION**

NORTH COAST RAILROAD AUTHORITY  
 RUSSIAN RIVER DIVISION  
 FREIGHT RAIL PROJECT

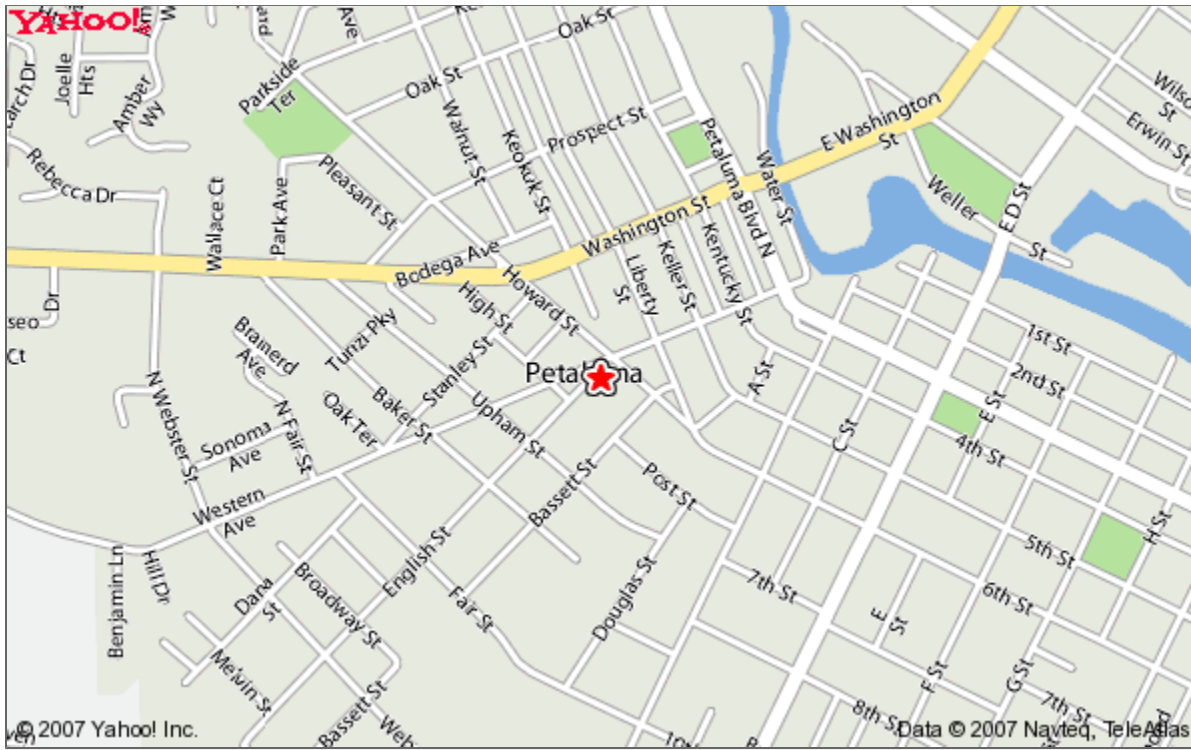
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	DRAFTED BY: S CALLAHAN PROJECT NO: 78207	FILE NO: Fig2_2.fh11 DATE: 07-10-07	

**Yahoo! Maps - 11 ENGLISH ST, Petaluma, CA 94952, US**



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**LOCATION OF PUBLIC AGENCY SCOPING MEETING  
PETALUMA CITY HALL 11 ENGLISH STREET PETALUMA - CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**



North Coast Railroad Authority  
419 Talmage Road, Suite M  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
(707) 463-3280  
<http://www.northcoastrailroad.org>

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August 1, 2007

State Clearinghouse  
P.O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

RE: SCH #2007072052 – Extension of Comment Period for North Coast Railroad Authority  
Russian River Division Freight Rail Project

North Coast Railroad Authority has extended the comment period to 5:00 p.m. August 31, 2007 to allow comments from two scheduled and noticed scoping meetings:

**CEQA PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING**

**Wednesday – August 29, 2007**

**7 p.m. – 9 p.m.**

**City Council Chambers  
City of Santa Rosa City Hall  
100 Santa Rosa Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404**

**CEQA PUBLIC AGENCY SCOPING MEETING**

**Friday – August 31, 2007**

**9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

**City Council Chambers  
City of Petaluma City Hall  
11 English Street  
Petaluma, CA 94952**

**SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS**

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Please forward the above information to the attention of anyone you know would be interested in this matter.

Sincerely,

North Coast Railroad Authority

*/s/*

Mitch Stogner  
Executive Director