

21304  
SEC

Service Date- December 2, 1996

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

S.B. Finance Docket No. 32943

NORTH COAST RAILROAD AUTHORITY  
--OPERATION and ACQUISITION EXEMPTION--  
CALIFORNIA NORTHERN RAILROAD COMPANY,  
NORTHWESTERN PACIFIC RAILROAD AUTHORITY, AND  
GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE, HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

Decided: December 13, 1996

By petition filed May 10, 1996, the North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA) requested an exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 from the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10902 to acquire and operate a rail line for freight and passenger excursion services in Mendocino, Sonoma, Marin and Napa Counties, CA, extending from NWP milepost 142.5 near Outlet, CA, to SP milepost 63.4 at Lombard Station, a distance of approximately 142.2 miles over four segments. In addition, NCRA requested Board approval of its acquisition of freight easement rights over three of the four segments of the rail line.

However, in a notice of exemption filed September 5, 1996, in S.B. Finance Docket No. 33115, NCRA indicated that a lease of the subject line to California Northern Railroad Company by Southern Pacific Transportation Company has been assigned to NCRA per agreement between the parties. NCRA added that, to facilitate that agreement, an operating agreement has been entered into by which the Northwestern Pacific Railroad Authority and the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District have granted NCRA a surface freight easement for that portion of the line not owned by NCRA. Finally, NCRA stated that, upon expiration of the notice period, it would withdraw its petition in S.B. Finance Docket No. 32943. The notice in S.B. Finance Docket No. 33115 was served and published on September 27, 1996, and is now effective.

By pleading filed December 4, 1996, NCRA asks that its petition in S.B. Finance Docket No. 32943 be withdrawn because of the Board's favorable action in S.B. Finance Docket No. 33115. The request will be granted.

It is ordered:

1. The request to withdraw the petition filed in this proceeding is granted and the proceeding is dismissed.
2. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams

Secretary

