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SERVICE DATE - OCTOBER 30, 1998

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

STB Docket NO. AB-33 (SUB-NO. 127X)

**Union Pacific Railroad Company--Abandonment
Exemption--in Los Angeles County, CA**

BACKGROUND

In the above entitled proceeding, the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP), has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152.50 seeking exemption from the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903 in connection with the Abandonment and Discontinuance of Service and Trackage Rights of a 2.2-mile line of railroad on the Torrance Branch extending from milepost 500.67 to the end of the line at milepost 502.87, in Torrance, Los Angeles County, FL. A map depicting the rail line in relationship to the area served is appended to the report. If the exemption becomes effective, the railroad will be able to salvage track, ties and other railroad appurtenances, and to dispose of the right-of-way.

DESCRIPTION OF THE LINE

The line consists of a mixture of 70-pound, 80-pound and 90-pound rail. There are no rail shipments on the Line. UP states that there will be no future traffic sufficient to justify the costs necessary to sustain rail operations. The Line consists of 1.6460 acres of reversionary land and 5.5220 acres of non-reversionary land, for a total of 7.680 acres. In its notice UP states that there has been no traffic on the line during the past two years.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

UP submitted an environmental report that concludes the quality of the human environment will not be affected significantly as a result of the abandonment or any post abandonment activities, including salvage and disposition of the right-of-way. UP served the environmental and historical reports on a number of appropriate Federal, state, and local agencies as required by the Surface Transportation Board's environmental rules [49 CFR 1105.7(b)]. We reviewed and investigated the record in this proceeding.

The U.S. Department of Commerce, National Geodetic Survey (NGS) has advised that three geodetic station markers have been identified that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. NGS requests that it receive not less than 90 days' notification in advance of any salvage activities in order to plan for their relocation. NGS also sent a copy of the list and location of the markers to

UP. We will recommend NGS's requests as a condition to any abandonment.

The Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) states that the Torrance Line is located not only in Los Angeles County and the City of Torrance, but also in the City of Los Angeles. LADOT indicates that UP will be required to have the approval of the three jurisdictions for removal of the track. We recommend that UP prior to salvage operations consult with Mr. Brian Sunshine, City of Torrance, Assistance to the City Manager, 3031 Torrance Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503; Mr. Bill Winters, County of Los Angeles, Supervising Civil Engineer III Program Development Division, P. O. Box 1460, Alhambra, CA 91802-1460; Mr. Aurelio A. Albaisa, City of Los Angeles, Transportation Engineer LADOT, 221 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 400, Los Angeles, CA 90012 and Mr. Victor M. Osugi, District Engineer, Bureau of Engineering, 638 So. Beacon St., Ste. 400, San Pedro, CA 90731-3346. We recommend that UP consult with the above jurisdictions prior to salvage operations.

CONDITIONS

We recommend the following environmental conditions be placed on any decision granting abandonment authority:

The National Geodetic Survey (NGS) has identified three geodetic station markers that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. Therefore, UP shall notify NGS at least 90 days prior to salvage activities in order to plan their relocation.

The Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LA DOT) states that a portion of the line proposed for abandonment is located in the City of Los Angeles. Therefore, LA DOT requests that UP consult with the following the following individuals prior to salvage operations: (1) Mr. Brian Sunshine, City of Torrance, Assistance to the City Manager, 3031 Torrance Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503; (2) Mr. Bill Winters, Division, P. O. Box 1460, Alhambra, CA 91802-1460; Mr. Aurelio A. Albaisa, City of Los Angeles, Transportation Engineer LA DOT, 221 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 400, Los Angeles, CA 90012 and Mr. Victor M. Osugi, District Engineer, Bureau of Engineering, 638 So. Beacon St., Ste. 400, San Pedro, CA 90731-3346. Therefore, we recommend imposition of a condition requiring UP to comply with LA DOT's request.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the information provided from all sources to date, we conclude that, as currently proposed, and subject to the recommended condition, abandonment of the line will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, the environmental impact statement process is unnecessary.

Alternatives to the proposed discontinuance would include denial (and, therefore no change in operations), discontinuance of service without abandonment, and continued operation by another

operator. In this case, the existing quality of the human environment and energy consumption should not be affected.

PUBLIC USE

If abandonment and salvage of the rial line does not take place, the right-of-way may be suitable for other public use. A request containing the requisite four-part showing for imposition of a public use condition (49 CFR 1152.28) must be filed with the Board and served on the railroad within the time specified in the Federal Register notice.

TRAILS USE

A request for a notice of interim trail use (NITU) is due to the Board, with a copy to the railroad, within 10 days of publication of the notice of exemption in the Federal Register. However, the Board will accept late-filed requests as long as it retains jurisdiction to do so in a particular case. This request must comply with the Board's rules for use of rights-of-way as trails (49 CFR 1152.29).

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

The Board's Office of Public Services responds to questions regarding interim trail use, public use, and other reuse alternatives. You may contact the Office of Public Services directly at (202) 565-1592, or mail inquiries to Surface Transportation Board, Office of Public Services, Washington, DC 20423.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMENTS

If you wish to file comments regarding this environmental assessment, send an **original and two copies** to Vernon A. Williams, Office of the Secretary, Room 2215, Washington, DC 20423, to the attention of Ann Newman, who prepared this environmental assessment. **Please refer to Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 127X) in all correspondence addressed to the Board.** If you have questions regarding this environmental assessment, you should contact Ann Newman at (202) 565-1629.

Date made available to the public: October 30, 1998.

Comment due date: November 16, 1998.

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By the Surface Transportation Board, Elaine K. Kaiser, Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary

Attachment

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PLEASE SCAN MAP