

AE-7028
FD-34836
D7W

March 31, 2008

Diana Wood
Section of Environmental analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: Draft Environmental Assessment; STB Finance Docket No. 34836
Arizona Eastern Railway – Construction and Operation- In Graham County, Arizona

Dear Ms. Wood,

On behalf of the City of Safford, it's my pleasure to offer the following comments to the above referenced environmental assessment.

1. You have referenced the City of Safford's Airport Master Plan in the document. Please be aware that the City of Safford is updating the 2000 Master Plan Document. Based on the update, the City of Safford is planning on extending runway 12/30 from its current length of 6,000 feet to 8,000 feet within the next twenty (20) years. The runway extension will be to the northwest, very close to the proposed alignment of the new railroad spur. We request that you consider planning the future alignment with our staff and airport engineer to ensure that the proposed railroad spur will not conflict with our proposed runway extension.
2. The proposed alignment for the railroad spur appears to cross property owned by the City of Safford just west of the Safford Regional Airport. We propose that you discuss this alignment with our staff in detail during the design process.
3. It appears that the proposed railroad spur is planned for construction just east of the Dry Lake Park. Again, we ask that during planning for the alignment, you work closely with our staff to mitigate any concerns or impacts to the Dry Lake Park.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (928) 432-4171.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Porter
Special Projects Manager

Copy to: Huey P. Long, Pete Stasiak, Randy Petty, and Georgia Luster