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**Via Fax (202) 565-9004 and Regular Mail**

Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001



RE: Environmental Filing FD No. 34079

Dear Secretary Williams:

Galveston Bay Conservation and Preservation Association hereby requests an extension of the comment period in Finance Docket 34079. The comment period is an essential tool for citizens to participate in projects that will affect their community and environment.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement was released on Friday, December 6, 2002, and the comment period is scheduled to close January 27, 2003. The issues presented in the DEIS are complex, and in order to produce substantial, meaningful comments that will assist the Surface Transportation Board in making their final decision, we need additional time.

Also, due to the holiday season, many of the working weeks between now and January 27<sup>th</sup> will be interrupted. For these reasons, GBCPA respectfully requests that the comment period be extended forty-five days until March 13, 2003.

Sincerely yours,

BLACKBURN CARTER, P.C.

  
James B. Blackburn

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