

EI-1943
(D)

AMADOR COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

"To Identify & Preserve all Matters of Historic Interest for Amador County & its Peoples"

February 18, 2006

Ms. Victoria J. Rutson
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

RE: Historic Railway Distruction/Desecration - Amador Central Railroad

Dear Ms. Rutson,

I got your name from Ms. Debbie Cook, historical archeologist here in Amador County, as she states she has spoken with you before on this matter.

This last week I spoke at a regular meeting of the Amador County Transportation Commission ("ACTC") regarding the state of disrepair of several rail crossings on State highways here in the County. I asked if the responsibility was that of the railroad's owner, Sierra Pacific Industries, or the State Department of Transportation ("CalTrans") to maintain the crossings. After much discussion, neither the Board of the ACTC nor representatives of CalTrans could give an answer and the director of the ACTC said he would look into the matter and report back to the Board.

During the discussion, the chairman of the ACTC, Mr. L.W. Breiner, stated that one crossing, on State Highway 49, was going to be removed in any event, as it would be more convenient for ingress/egress to a new business park currently being built close by, and they had removed a spur line that was in the business park prior to construction. I stated that this would isolate the historic railway station and locomotive barn and it was my understanding that any removal/destruction of a historic railroad had to have the approval of the Surface Transportation Board ("STB"), along with an environmental impact report. He stated this was not so and, essentially, the ACTC could do as they wished.

Because the business park is well along into development it would appear that this matter needs immediate attention from the STB, as destruction of the rail crossing could be imminent.

Post office box 761
Jackson, California 95642

Ms. Victoria J. Rutson
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
February 18, 2006
Page 2

I am asking that a letter from your office be sent to Mr. Breaner of the ACTC relating the requirements of retaining historic railroads and also, if you are aware, who is responsible for maintaining rail crossings of roads and highways. A copy of the letter to myself would be appreciated. The address of the ACTC is: 11400 American Legion Drive, Jackson, Calif. 95642.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter and should there be any questions, please don't hesitate to call or fax me at (209)223-1313.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Butow', written in a cursive style.

David E. Butow
President