

EI-2620  
CB

## Fall River Resource Conservation District

Post Office Box 83  
336-5618  
McArthur, CA 96056



Telephone/Fax: (530) 336-6591/

e-mail: fallriverrcd@citlink.net



December 9, 2006

Jeff Forbis  
McCloud Railway  
P.O. Box 1500  
McCloud, CA 96057

Dear Jeff:

The Fall River Resource Conservation District (FRRCD) supports private land owners in the management of natural resources which will ensure the sustained economic, social, and environmental benefits of these resources. The FRRCD is a non-regulatory special district of the state of California that encompasses an area of over one million acres, including the Bear Creek and Fall River watersheds.

The FRRCD entered an agreement with McCloud Railway in July of 2004 to implement a project "to restore and enhance water quality, reduce bedload and suspended sediment from downstream scouring, improve aquatic and riparian habitat by installing newly designed culverts in Bear and Cold Creek, and re-directing Cold Creek flow into its historic channel. As you know, this crossing had failed catastrophically several times in the past, releasing large amounts of sediment to downstream waters of Bear Creek and the Fall River.

This project is consistent with Phase I activities identified in the recommendations from the watershed assessment *Big Bear Flat Restoration Design* (June 2001) and the EPA Clean Water Act 205j *Analysis of Sedimentation and Action Plan Development for the Upper Fall River, Shasta County, California* (Tetra Tech, Inc., 1998)." This project consisted of a watercourse crossing of the McCloud Railway culvert replacement and stream restoration on Bear Creek in Shasta and Siskiyou Counties, California. This project was funded by a grant to the FRRCD from the Cantara Trust Council. The Cantara Trust Council was formed to allocate funds from a program initiated with a settlement resulting from a toxic chemical spill at a railroad derailment on the Upper Sacramento River.

Subject to the terms of that agreement, the McCloud River Railway is obligated to maintain this project. It is now our understanding that this portion of the Railway is scheduled for abandonment. In which case, please provide to us McCloud River Railway's plan for maintenance following abandonment. If McCloud River Railway has no plans for maintenance following abandonment, then the FRRCD requests that the abandonment process include complete removal of the crossing and restoration of the crossing site to pre-existing flood plain geometry.

Sincerely,

*Bob Rynearson*

Bob Rynearson  
Board President

cc: Surface Transportation Board, attn: Vernon A. Williams, Secretary (STB Docket No. AB-914X)  
Don Beaty, W.M. Beaty & Associates, Inc.