

Resolution No. 2017-_____

Board of Directors of

NORTH COAST RAILROAD AUTHORITY

A Resolution Stating Intentions for Resumption of Service North of Willits

WHEREAS the railroad north of Willits has been closed to regular freight traffic since February 8, 1998 due to damage caused by El Nino storms in January 1998 and February 1998;

WHEREAS the railroad north of Willits remains an active line, it being the intention of the North Coast Railroad Authority to resume freight service at the earliest practicable time;

WHEREAS the Railroad north of Willits has been divided in two blocks, the “Eel River Block from Milepost 142.5 near Willits to Milepost 238 near South Fork, California, and the “Humboldt Bay Block” from Milepost 238 near South Fork to Milepost 295.57 near Arcata, California and to Milepost 295.7 near Arcata, California.

WHEREAS NCRA solicited requests for proposals for resumption of service north of Willits and did not receive any responses and the NCRA has no current operator for the line;

WHEREAS the costs of restoration of the railroad line north of Willits are unknown, it is believed that there are no foreseeable funding sources to fund the restoration costs

WHEREAS the NCRA Board has from time to time reaffirmed its willingness to consider a rails-with-trails and to that end has adopted a formal trails policy;

WHEREAS the Board of Directors desires to record by this resolution its intention as to service north of Willits.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors as follows:

1. NCRA desires to open the Eel River Block and the Humboldt Bay Block either separately or together at the earliest possible time, and is receptive to any offers from private operators to open and operate.
2. NCRA intends to open as much of the railroad north of Willits at the earliest possible time.

3. NCRA is receptive to Rails-With-Rails proposals on either the Eel River Block and the Humboldt Bay Block consistent with the Trail Projects on the NWP Line Rights of Way, Design, Construction, Safety, Operations, and Maintenance Guidelines, codified as Chapter 0907 of the NCRA Policy and Procedures Manual.

Approved at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of North Coast Railroad Authority at Eureka, California on September 13, 2017 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Allan Hemphill, Chairman

ATTEST:

Mitch Stogner, Executive Director

September 13, 2017

NCRA Agenda Item F.1

Suggested modifications to "A Resolution Stating Intentions for Resumption of Service North of Willits"

Revise the sixth "Whereas" to read: "WHEREAS the NCRA Board has adopted a formal trails policy and has routinely approved rails-with-trails projects consistent with its adopted policy;

Revise the "be it resolved" section to read:

"NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. NCRA desires to open the Eel River Block and the Humboldt Bay Block, either separately or together, at the earliest possible time, contingent on securing the necessary funds for restoring the line and the services of a qualified operator.
2. NCRA is receptive to any proposals from private operators to restore service to any part of either or both the Eel River Block and Humboldt Bay Block.
3. NCRA is particularly receptive to any proposals to restore passenger, excursion and/or freight service to any part of the Humboldt Bay Block, especially in the Humboldt Bay area.
4. NCRA is receptive to rails-with-trails proposals on either or both Eel River Block and the Humboldt Bay Block consistent with the Trail Projects on the NWP Line Rights of Way, Design, Construction, Safety, Operations, and Maintenance Guidelines, codified as Chapter 0907 of the NCRA Policy and Procedures Manual.