



March 18, 2021

Mr. Guy Preston  
Executive Director  
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission  
1523 Pacific Ave.  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Guy:

I wanted to thank you, Luis and Steve for taking the time out of your busy schedules to speak with us Wednesday. We certainly share your concerns regarding the Santa Cruz Branch Line and believe there could be real potential in collaborating on railroad projects and other operations. Your update on the line was very informative and helps us to understand the issues you're dealing with in regards to the railroad bridges. We just completed our annual engineering report and subsequent list of repairs for our bridges in accordance with FRA CFR Part 237 program. We certainly understand the challenges that inspections bring both financially and logistically and are happy to discuss avenues and solutions we've taken.

As stated in our meeting, we are not in support of railbanking. This has led to our discussion with Progressive in regards to the handling of freight service between MP 0 – MP 7. We feel our partnership could help bridge a gap between the RTC and Progressive so that freight can be served in accordance with STB requirements. Progressive has expressed the opinion that the ACL should be amended because the current agreement creates too large of a burden on the operator. As you know we have concurred in this opinion and would like to request a discussion on the few items of concern. We hope you will consider our request as we feel future negotiations may become difficult.

We also encourage you to continue communications with TIG/m whom we view as a potential partner for the transportation service requirement of the ACL. They shared that their initial offer was just one possible scenario and that they can offer a much more modest approach that would include track remediation, rolling stock, new stations and an O&M facility, none of which would require public sector funding. TIG/m can solve the issues of service operation, EIR's, etc., given the chance. Clean air, battery and hydrogen fuel propelled, 20 hours of operation on a single charge, TIG/m truly offers a environmentally friendly, cost-effective answer to smaller regional rail transportation. Roaring Camp is offering our support and services to assist in TIG/m's success on the corridor.

During our meeting, you expressed concern about the long-term future. Roaring Camp shares concerns about the future too, our business depends on it. We look to partner with state-of-the-art transportation services like TIG/m, we look to freight service on our Felton Branch Line and we look to what we can bring to the table however it fits best on the Santa Cruz Branch Line. We support the rail with trail and think it is an asset to all those living and visiting Santa Cruz County. We hope the efforts of Mark Stone, Sam Farr and so many others who worked hard for a multi-use corridor will be proud of the decisions made by you during your tenure at the RTC.

Best regards,

Melani Clark  
CEO, Roaring Camp Railroads