

RESOLUTION NO. 2012- 02

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EUREKA SUPPORTING
THE HUMBOLDT BAY ALTERNATIVE RAIL ROUTE FEASIBILITY STUDY**

WHEREAS, modern transportation infrastructure is salient to the future security and economic development of the Port of Humboldt Bay, Humboldt County and northern California; and

WHEREAS, the economic impact of an active rail connection from the national rail system to Humboldt Bay is quantifiable by two recent missed opportunities that resulted in approximately \$25 million per year of lost economic value to our community because the two shipping opportunities located elsewhere due to the lack of an active rail connection to Humboldt Bay; and

WHEREAS, a study analyzing an east-west alternative rail route connecting Humboldt Bay to the national rail system would provide valuable information on the feasibility of restoring rail service to Humboldt Bay; and

WHEREAS the *Humboldt Bay Alternative Rail Route Feasibility Study* has been conceptually proposed to analyze the concept of developing an east-west alternative rail route from the national rail system to Humboldt Bay; and

WHEREAS, a new easterly route would likely connect Humboldt Bay to the existing Union Pacific main rail line just south of Red Bluff near Gerber, CA; and

WHEREAS, this potential new route, at approximately 125 miles long, is roughly half of the length of the existing Northwestern Pacific rail line and involves a fraction of the tunnels, bridges and signaled crossings of the existing rail line; and

WHEREAS, the *Humboldt Bay Alternative Rail Route Feasibility Study* is proposed to include a literature review on the history of this route, identification of a proposed route along with alternatives, identification of land ownerships along the proposed route, a conceptual development plan that includes rail ownership and governance, preliminary engineering feasibility, highway connectors and any proposed modifications to improve highway/rail interface, estimated permitting needs, estimated environmental issues and mitigations, and estimated development costs and timeline; and

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Page 2 of 3

WHEREAS, an easterly route could incorporate the Humboldt Bay Short Rail portion of the existing NCRA right-of-way from South Fork to Samoa when it became operational; and

WHEREAS, exploring an alternative rail route would provide valuable information on transportation options for economic development, as well as establishing a reliable connection to areas outside the local community when natural disasters or other events isolate the Humboldt Bay region; and

WHEREAS, the proposed study would provide data for both our decision makers and for those wanting to make investments in the Humboldt Bay region; and

WHEREAS, due to the apparent economic potential of a rail line connecting Humboldt Bay to the national rail system, the City of Eureka now has an opportunity to lead an effort to explore the feasibility of an alternate rail route to the east.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Eureka to support, as a public governing body, a feasibility study of an alternative (eastern) rail route to connect Humboldt Bay to the national rail system; and

Be it Further Resolved that the City of Eureka does hereby agree to participate in a public/private effort to acquire funding and technical support to insure the success of the *Humboldt Bay Alternative Rail Route Feasibility Study*; and

Be it Further Resolved that the City of Eureka does hereby agree to meet and promote with HCOAG and other jurisdictions regarding a conceptual route to insure the success of the *Humboldt Bay Rail Route Feasibility Study Alternative*.

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Be it Further Resolved that the City of Eureka does hereby agree to meet and promote with HCOAG and other jurisdictions regarding a conceptual route to insure the success of the Humboldt Bay Rail Route Feasibility Study Alternative.

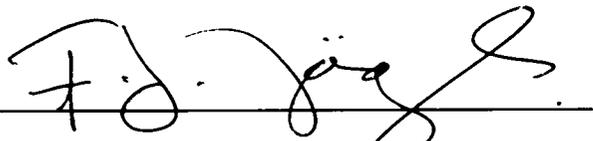
PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Eureka in the County of Humboldt, State of California, on the 17th day of January, 2012 by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS BRADY, ATKINS, NEWMAN, CIARABELLINI

NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS

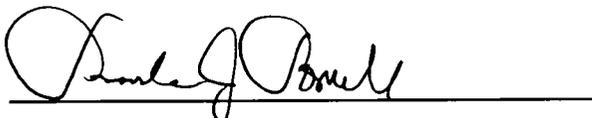
ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS MADSEN

ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEMBERS



Frank J. Jäger, Mayor of the City of Eureka

Attest:



Pamela J. Powell, City Clerk

Approved as to Administration:



David W. Tyson, City Manager

Approved as to form:



Cyndy Day Wilson, City Attorney

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Page 3 of 3

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Pamela J. Powell, City Clerk

Approved as to Administration: Approved as to form.

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David W. Tysorf City Manager Cyndy Da*,Wilson, City Attorney