

CITY OF CLOVERDALE

RESOLUTION NO. 088- 2021

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLOVERDALE URGING THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD TO REJECT THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE NORTH COAST RAIL COMPANY, LLC AND TO ENCOURAGE THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD TO GRANT THE REQUEST OF THE NORTH COAST RAIL AUTHORITY TO RAILBANK THEIR RAIL LINE FROM WILLITS TO HUMBOLDT BAY

WHEREAS, on May 14, 2021, the North Coast Rail Authority (“NCRA”) filed a petition seeking the Surface Transportation Board’s permission to abandon a 175.4-mile portion of rail line in favor of creating the Great Redwood Trail, a multi-use pathway extending 320 miles along the agency’s right of way; and

WHEREAS, the section of rail line that NCRA filed to abandon was closed by federal safety officials after destructive rainstorms in 1998 washed out hillsides and collapsed tunnels and repair estimates are approximately \$2.8 billion; and

WHEREAS, on August 16, 2021, a newly formed corporation named the North Coast Railroad Company, LLC (“NCRCo”) filed a pleading with the Surface Transportation Board to represent that is ready to make an “Offer of Financial Assistance” to acquire and rehabilitate the NCRA’s rail line between Eureka and Willits for the purposes of “high-volume shipments;” and

WHEREAS, it is widely believed that NCRCo is intending to use the railroad to transport coal mined in the Midwest across the state of California to Marin County, and then haul it north through Sonoma, Mendocino, Trinity, and Humboldt counties to the port of Humboldt; and

WHEREAS, according to railroad studies, somewhere between five hundred to two thousand pounds of coal and coal dust can escape from every single loaded train car carrying coal and coal can cause devastating impacts to drinking water, watersheds, and the surrounding environment; and

WHEREAS, the NCRCo proposal would transport coal along the Russian and Eel rivers which supply drinking water to nearly one-million people of Northern California and are a habitat for numerous threatened and endangered species: and,

WHEREAS, the transportation of coal through North Sonoma County and California is inconsistent with State of California and Cloverdale policies and practices aimed at reducing carbon emissions by reducing the use of fossil fuels.

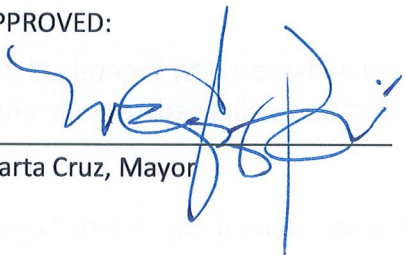
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Cloverdale hereby urges the Surface Transportation Board to reject the application submitted on behalf of the North Coast Rail Company, LLC and to encourage the Surface Transportation Board to grant the request

of the North Coast Rail Authority to railbank their rail line from Willits to Humboldt Bay.

It is hereby certified that the foregoing Resolution No. 088-2021, was duly introduced and duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Cloverdale at its regular meeting held on the 13th day of October 2021, by the following vote:

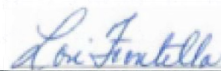
AYES:	5	COUNCILMEMBERS: Lands, Palla, Bagby, Wolter, Cruz
NOES:	0	
ABSTAIN:	0	
ABSENT:	0	

APPROVED:



Marta Cruz, Mayor

ATTESTED:



Lori Frontella, Acting City Clerk