

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD ISSUES "RENO PRELIMINARY MITIGATION PLAN," SCHEDULES 2 PUBLIC MEETINGS ON OCTOBER 9 IN CONNECTION WITH UP-SP MERGER

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Monday, September 15, 1997 i_c_l_2 i_c_l_2 i_c_l_2 i_c_l_2 i_c_l_2 i_c_l_2 i_c_l_2 i_c_l_2 i_c_l_2 i_c_l_2 i_c_l_2
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IN CONNECTION WITH UP-SP MERGER**

The Surface Transportation Board (Board) announced today that its Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) has issued its Union Pacific-Southern Pacific Railroad Merger: Reno Mitigation Study Preliminary Mitigation Plan (PMP) for public review and comment for a 30-day period ending **October 15, 1997**. The PMP describes preliminary, additional environmental mitigation for the City of Reno and Washoe County, Nevada, to address further potential environmental impacts unique to that city and county from increased rail traffic on the "Union Pacific" Union Pacific Corporation, Union Pacific Railroad Company, and Missouri Pacific Railroad Company. (UP) railroad right-of-way (formerly owned by "Southern Pacific" Southern Pacific Rail Corporation, Southern Pacific Transportation Company, St. Louis Southwestern Railway Company, SPCSL Corp., and The Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad Company. [SP]) traversing Reno as a result of the UP-SP merger approved by the Board in August 1996 In Decision No. 44 in the proceeding entitled *Union Pacific Corporation, Union Pacific Railroad Company, and Missouri Pacific Railroad Company--Control and Merger--Southern Pacific Transportation Company, St. Louis Southwestern Railway Company, SPCSL Corp., and The Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad Company*, Finance Docket No. 32760.. The Board also announced that the SEA will conduct two public meetings on **Thursday, October 9, 1997**, in Reno to provide the public the opportunity to receive additional information on the PMP and to comment on it. The first meeting will begin at 2:30 p.m. local time at Reno City Hall, 490 South Center Street, in Reno. The second meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the same location. During these meetings, the SEA staff will make brief presentations and answer questions from the public. Both meetings will be immediately preceded by informal "open house" sessions, the first held from 1:30-2:30 p.m., the second from 6:00-7:00 p.m., during which members of the public may view maps of the study area and discuss preliminary mitigating options recommended by the SEA. As part of its approval of the UP-SP merger, the Board directed the SEA to conduct an environmental mitigation study to develop additional, tailored environmental measures--beyond those already imposed on UP-SP in Decision No. 44--to address local conditions unique to Reno and Washoe County relative to the potential

environmental impacts of increased merger-related train traffic. The preliminary results of that study and the SEA's preliminary recommendations for additional environmental mitigation measures are described in the PMP, which will be subject to a 30-day review and comment period concluding October 15, 1997.

The SEA will consider all public comments and issue a Final Mitigation Plan (FMP) for public review and comment. After full consideration of the public comments on the PMP and FMP, the SEA will make its final recommendations to the Board. Any specific mitigation adopted by the Board after its review of the SEA's recommendations will be in addition to those mitigation measures already imposed on the merger.

The SEA welcomes public input on possible mitigation options to address further the potential environmental impacts associated with increased rail traffic resulting from the merger. In addition to distributing copies of the PMP to interested parties for review, the SEA will distribute copies to the Reno and Sparks Branches of the Washoe County Library to facilitate public review and comment.

Public comments must be submitted in writing (an original and 10 copies) **no later than October 15, 1997**, to:

Attention: Elaine K. Kaiser, Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis
Environmental Filing--Reno
Office of the Secretary
Case Control Unit
Finance Docket No. 32760
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW, Room 700
Washington, DC 20423-0001

For further information concerning the PMP or the public meeting, telephone Harold McNulty, Reno Mitigation Study Co-Director, at **(202) 565-1539**. The TDD number for the hearing impaired is **(202) 565-1695**.

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