



**Santa Cruz County Regional
Transportation Commission
SPECIAL MEETING**

MINUTES

**Thursday, October 14, 2010
2:30 p.m.**

NOTE LOCATION

**SCCRTC Conference Room
1523 Pacific Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95060**

1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 2:34 pm

Members Present:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Tony Campos | Kirby Nicol |
| John Leopold | Don Lane |
| Ellen Pirie | Antonio Rivas |
| Randy Johnson | Donna Ziel (Alt.) |
| Andy Schiffrin (Alt.) | Dene Bustichi |
| Ron Graves | Donald Hagen (Alt.) |

Staff present:

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| George Dondero | Luis Mendez |
| Yesenia Parra | Cory Caletti |

2. Oral communications

Piet Canin invited all to the October 20, 2010 Zipcar expansion launch event beginning at 11:30 am. The event will take place in the City of Santa Cruz parking lot #2 on Cedar St.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

Executive Director George Dondero said that there were add on and replacement pages for item 7.

CONSENT AGENDA

No consent items

REGULAR AGENDA

4. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

Commission Chair Johnson said that the item to be reviewed in closed session was negotiations with Sierra Northern Railway.

The Commission adjourned to closed session at 2:37 pm

CLOSED SESSION

5. Conference with Real Property Negotiator Pursuant to Government Code 54956.8 relating to the freight easement: Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line from Watsonville Junction to Davenport

Agency Negotiator: Kirk Trost, Miller Owen & Trost

Negotiation Parties: SCCRTC, Sierra Northern Railway

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms

OPEN SESSION

6. Report on closed session

The Commission reconvened to open session at 2:59 pm and there was no report from closed session.

7. Acquisition of Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line and Administration, Coordination and License Agreement
(*Luis Mendez, Deputy Director*)

Deputy Director Luis Mendez presented the staff report stating that since 2001 the Commission has been negotiating the purchase of the 31-mile Santa Cruz Branch rail line. He reminded the Commission that at its October 7, 2010 meeting they approved the agreement and requested that Sierra sign the agreement by 5:00 pm on October 8, 2010. Sierra missed the deadline; however, they did sign the agreement with a few changes that addressed the assignment of the trackage rights with Big Trees/Roaring Camp, under a separate assignment and assumption agreement.

Public Comments

Chuck Huddleston urged the commission to sign the contract, envision uses of the rail line such as bike and pedestrian trails, and "become part of the future."

Rosemary Sarka, Roaring Camp, thanked the staff and the negotiators for working so diligently on addressing the Big Trees Company's concerns.

Micah Posner, People Power, thanked staff and negotiators for all their work and asked that the Commission approve the agreement.

Mark Jaffee said that the Commission should put their reservations aside and look at what this purchase could offer in the future, for example a bike trail. He said that the public/private partnership options on the line represent great opportunities for the community. He said that the Commission will miss opportunities by not taking a positive attitude.

Commission Alternate Schiffrin thanked the staff and the consultants for all their work.

Commission Alternate Hagen said that although he may not be around to see the project completely finished he is excited that his grandchildren will have other transportation options.

Commissioner Johnson said that although it seems that the Commission has reached cooperation with the operator, he still has several concerns and would not be supporting the recommendation.

Commissioner Leopold moved to approve the staff and negotiator recommendation to enter into an administration, coordination and license agreement and an assignment and assumption agreement with Sierra Northern Railway and approving a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to take the necessary actions to complete the purchase of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (Branch Line) on behalf of the RTC.

Commission alternate Schiffrin seconded.

The motion (Resolution 11-11) passed with Commissioners Bustichi and Johnson voting "no".

8. Next Meetings

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 21, 2010 has been canceled.

The next SCCRTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 4, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean St., Santa Cruz, CA.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Yesenia Parra, Administrative Services Officer

ATTENDEES

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| Judy Marsalis | People Power |
| Rosemary Sarka | Roaring Camp |
| Robert Vorce | People Power |
| John Parker | |
| Trink Praxel | |
| Cliff Walters | Sierra |
| Mark Jaffee | |
| Cory Caletti | Commission Staff |
| Frank Proulx | People Power |
| Micah Posner | People Power |
| Chuck Huddleston | |
| Piet Canin | Ecology Action |
| Kendra Dorfan | |