



December 15, 2010

Joseph C. Szabo, Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Rail Line Relocation and Improvement Capital Grant Program

Dear Administrator Szabo:

I am writing at this time, on behalf of WALKSacramento, to indicate our strong support for the \$2.177 million Rail Line Relocation and Improvement Grant submitted by the City of Sacramento for improvements at the Docks Area Redevelopment project in downtown Sacramento.

The Docks Area is a 40-acre site that is located along the Sacramento River just southwest of the State capitol and downtown Sacramento. Historically, the area was the confluence of rail and river transport and served as a major commerce center. However as transportation factors changed, the area was abandoned and became an area of vacant lots and little economic activity. Under the City's leadership, a successful Brownfields project and planning for a new City neighborhood have been completed, and the Docks Area is poised to once again be an economic center for the City.

The Docks Area is planned to have 1,000 residential units, 250,000 square feet of office space, and 45,000 square feet of commercial space, while also providing residents and visitors with eight acres of new open space and a riverfront promenade. This significant infill project will locate housing and employment at a location that will mean less reliance upon automobile use as both residents and employees will take advantage of the central location, and walk, bike, and take transit for many trips.

In order for the Docks Area project to move forward it is necessary to relocate rail tracks owned and operated by the California State Railroad Museum. This relocation will allow the extension of the existing riverfront Promenade through the Docks area, and mitigate rail impacts upon the Docks site while insuring that the rail services provided by the Museum are sustained. The Docks Area redevelopment project is an exciting opportunity for the City to achieve a variety of economic and environmental objectives, and the assistance sought from the FRA funding is a key to this effort.

Your favorable consideration of the Rail Line Relocation and Improvement Grant application is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Anne Geraghty
Executive Director