

October 16, 2012 – KINS Community Comment

Hello, this is Duane Rigge with a Community Comment.

In case you missed the announcement, there is currently an ongoing discussion about the North Coast Railroad Authority's rail corridor around Humboldt Bay and you may want to participate in the dialogue.

Last June, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors requested the North Coast Railroad Authority Board, referred to as the NCRA, to create a committee to examine the deteriorating condition of rail corridor around Humboldt Bay as well as exploring future opportunities.

In July, the NCRA Board created a new 'ad hoc' committee called the "Humboldt Bay Rail Corridor Committee". The Committee's charter is to engage the public and listen to their concerns and promptly report its findings and recommendations back to the NCRA Board.

In August, the NCRA Board appointed three of its members to serve as the committee. They are: Clif Clendenen and Bill Kier as the Humboldt County delegates to the NCRA Board and John McCowen as the Mendocino County delegate to the Board.

The Committee has been working with the Humboldt County Public Works Department and others to define the Committee's Work Plan. The Public Works Department has commissioned engineering experts and others to prepare core presentations to help facilitate the public discussion.

The Committee has scheduled three "listening sessions" meetings. The meetings are being hosted by the City of Eureka in their newly rearranged Council Chambers at City Hall.

The first meeting was held on September 28th and provided an overview of the current conditions of the railroad right-of-way around Humboldt Bay and what it would take to secure its future operation again.

The second meeting was held on October 12th and examined opportunities for developing trails in the corridor in accordance with NCRA's Trails Policy.

The third and final session will be held on October 26th at 10 am in the Eureka City Council Chambers. This meeting will seek information concerning the prospects for restoring rail service to the Humboldt Bay corridor.

The meetings are being video recorded by Access Humboldt. The video recordings of the meetings can be found on Access Humboldt's Website for viewing.

The Humboldt Bay Rail Corridor Committee intends to publish their findings and recommendations to the Humboldt community prior to presenting them to the NCRA Board at their November 14th meeting in Eureka.

This has been Duane Rigge with a Community Comment.