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August 24, 2009

Ms. Melanie Robertson
Transportation Program Specialist
Federal Transit Administration
201 Mission Street, Suite 1650
San Francisco, CA 94105

Subject: Perris Valley Line Project – Citrus Connection Real Estate Issue
Request for Guidance

Melanie
Dear Ms. Robertson:

On April 9, 2008, Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) adopted the current Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) that is on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) line at Citrus Avenue. The Perris Valley Line (PVL) will operate primarily on track used as a freight line known as the San Jacinto Branch Line (SJBL). RCTC needs to acquire rights for additional railroad right of way to connect the SJBL to the BNSF line and to the Downtown Riverside Metrolink station.

The property that is the subject of this request for guidance is necessary for that connection (Citrus Connection) under the LPA and identified as Assessor Parcel Numbers 247-106-006, 247-112-002, and 247-150-011 and consolidated for development as a result of a city of Riverside approved Lot Line Adjustment. A copy of the Lot Line Adjustment is attached as Exhibit A. The property is fully entitled and is approximately 17.23 acres of vacant land. On July 30, 2009, a Request for Concurrence in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Finding 23 CFR 771.117(d)(12), was sent to Mr. Leslie T. Rogers for protective acquisition of land for the PVL project.

The portion of the property needed for the PVL project is approximately 6.6096 acres or 38% of the full parcel. A partial acquisition of the property is not feasible at this time for the following reasons: (a) Condition of Approval No. 23 on page 7 indicates that Villa Street may only be used as emergency access. A partial acquisition will leave the remainder of the property an uneconomic remnant. (A copy of Approval of Development Application by the city of Riverside Community Development Department is attached as Exhibit B); and (b) since this is an Advanced Acquisition for Protection, RCTC cannot exercise its power of eminent domain.

RCTC's intent is to make an offer to acquire the property and to use project funds to acquire the 6.6096 acres required to connect the SJBL to the BNSF line. The remaining 62% of the cost to acquire the property will be financed using RCTC Measure A funds (local funds) and held for RCTC's future use.

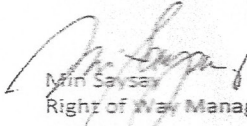
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Ms. Melanie Robertson
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Page 2

RCTC is requesting FTA's guidance in its plan to charge only the cost of the 38% portion of the parcel to the PVL project. RCTC's request is predicated on controlling project costs and to remain below the \$250 million New Starts threshold. RCTC will secure an appraisal of the property if it receives a response from FTA in the next two weeks.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

Sincerely,



Min Sanyal
Right of Way Manager

Attachments

cc: Edda Rosso