



CITY OF EUREKA PRESS RELEASE

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East-West Rail Feasibility Study Passes Major Milestone

On October 16, 2012, the Trinity County Board of Supervisors joined their counterparts from the City of Eureka, County of Humboldt, County of Tehama and the Upstate California Economic Development Council in approving the *UpState RailConnect Committee* Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). This action caps a 10 month effort led by the City of Eureka to garner public agency support for a study to explore the feasibility of an alternative (east-west) rail line that would connect Humboldt Bay's deep water harbor to a national rail connection in the Sacramento Valley.

The general purpose of the *UpState RailConnect Committee* is to coordinate the production of the Humboldt Bay Alternative Rail Route Feasibility Study. Specifically, the purpose of the *Upstate RailConnect Committee* will be to gather public input; conduct public outreach efforts in each member agencies region; review documents such as Request for Proposals, consultant submittals, draft and final reports; participate in consultant selection; provide consultant oversight; assist with grant writing and local technical in-kind efforts; and other tasks as mutually agreed upon by the *UpState RailConnect Committee* members.

As part of the *UpState RailConnect Committee*, each member agency will be represented by two agency appointees. There was no financial obligation created by the MOA on any of the *UpState RailConnect Committee* member agencies. The City of Eureka was awarded a \$25,000 grant earlier this year to assist with the *Upstate RailConnect Committee* process. The term of the MOA is three years.

Eureka Mayor Frank Jager stated that he is "very pleased that in less than 10 months, the *UpState RailConnect Committee* has gone from only an idea to reality" adding that he "appreciates the community spirit of the 33 agencies, businesses, educational, law enforcement and citizen organizations that have supported this study as well as the countless hours spent by volunteers and City staff dedicated to making our county a better place".

For additional information regarding the alternative rail route feasibility study, please see the City of Eureka's website:

http://www.ci.eureka.ca.gov/depts/council/rail_study.asp