1			EXHIBTS		
2	FOR THE	DETTTT.	ONER•	MZBKED	RECEIVED
3	FOR THE PETIT	EDITI'	ONER:	MARKED	RECEIVED
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5	FOR THE RESPON	DENT:	MARKED	RECEIVED	
6			·		
7	EXHIBIT D	D	VARIOUS EMAILS AND LETTERS OF MENDOCINO RAILWAY MANAGEMENT.		265
8					
9	EXHIBIT	E	LETTER FROM WARD LEVY APPRAISAL GROUP		265
10			TO JOHN MEYER.		
11	EXHIBIT I	Н	PLAINTIFF'S RESPONSES TO JOHN MEYER'S SPECIAL		305
12			INTERROGATORIES, SET 1.		
13	EXHIBIT	J	RESPONSES TO JOHN MEYER'S		305
14		77	FORM INTERROGATORIES.		205
15 16	EXHIBIT	K	PLAINTIFF'S RESPONSES TO JOHN MEYER'S REQUESTS FOR ADMISSIONS, SET 1.		305
17	EXHIBIT	0	PHOTOGRAPH OF THE DUDLEY		266
18			PROPERTY PARCEL AND A PORTION OF THE KOA PROPERTY.		
19	EXHIBIT	P	MENDOCINO RAILWAY MAP AND PHOTOS OF FACILITIES IN WILLITS.	181	266
20	•				
21	EXHIBIT	Q	AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF KOA CAMPGROUND PROPERTY.	211	266
22	-		CAMPGROUND FROFERIT.		
23					
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1	AUGUST 25, 2022
2	PROCEEDINGS
3	
4	THE COURT: Okay. So let's go back on the record.
5	And, Mr. Pinoli, you're still under oath.
6	THE WITNESS: Yes. Thank you. Good morning, Your
7	Honor.
8	CROSS-EXAMINATION:
9	BY MR. JOHNSON:
10	Q. Mr. Pinoli, yesterday we were looking at Exhibit
11	D. When we stopped the hearing yesterday, we had just
12	discussed the last email in Exhibit D, which was dated
13	January 17, 2020.
14	And it's the number on the bottom right is 135. And
15	I'd like to go to the page before that, which is 134. If
16	you'll take a look at that?
17	A. Sure. And if you don't mind, I'm going to grab my
18	glasses. I didn't bring those up to the stand.
19	(Discussion held off the record.)
20	THE COURT: You can keep going, Mr. Johnson.
21	BY MR. JOHNSON:
22	Q. Okay. Mr. Pinoli, are you on page 134?
23	A. Yes, sir. I am.
24	Q. Okay. This is an email dated January 18, 2020,
25	and it appears that you wrote that email. Is that correct?
26	A. Yes.
27	Q. Can you just can you just read the email on the
28	bottom of this page to yourself, please? Please let me know

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uphill from the Dudley property.

when you're done with that page. Α. Okay. Okay. So in the second paragraph of this email, 0. it states as for Camp Willits, George's son, Craig, a CDF fire prevention officer, I think just built a new house on this property. And they continue to make significant improvements to it. I doubt they have an interest in selling. Do you see that? Α. I do. The reference to George, is that George Dudley? 0. Α. Yes. And when you and Mendocino Railway were evaluating 0. the different properties that may potentially be available or functional for your site, were you also taking into consideration the potential cost of purchasing the respective properties when you made those evaluations? Α. In some respects, I do believe so. Okay. And then in the next paragraph, it says 0. there is a parcel for sale just a wee bit to the west. And then it has a reference to 2500 West Highway 20 in Willits. It is accessed through what we call the Blanch Field This is the property that has burned several times. Access off Highway 20 isn't easy, but it isn't miserable, either. Do you know what parcel is being referred to there?

It is uphill from -- certainly, from the subject property, and

It was, as I recall, a piece of property uphill.

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And, as I recall, it was a piece of property that was for sale that we were using maybe as a comparable. Okay. So you do not believe that it was a property that would function for your site? No. Once -- really, once you depart heading west from the KOA, the grade, the ascent up the east face of the coast mountain range is steep. It almost approaches a three percent grade, and so everything is uphill. There is nothing really flat uphill of the KOA property, the subject property, for that matter. 0. The cutter -- the Cutter Lumber property is flat, isn't it? Α. It is, but it has, as I described in my earlier testimony, significant barriers. The accessing from Cutter across --I remember. I just wanted to ask if it was Q. No. flat? The Cutter property is flat. Α. The next sentence in the email that we 0. Thank you. were looking at from January 18th states, "I think our best bet is to buy a fraction of KOA, or to see about buying the old Cutter property." "They have done nothing with it since the new owners acquired it." "I went on a quest to find out who owns it, and you had me work through Hampson (phonetic), who, as I recall, never followed through."

"We could revisit either KOA or Cutter, if you'd like."

So would it be correct to say that at that time, you 1 2 thought that the best options were the Cutter property or the 3 KOA property? Α. At that time. 4 5 Okay. And, then, if you continue in this email, 0. 6 it states on the bigger question, and then in quotations it says, "(Robert, what do you think? Several thoughts.)" 8 And then you list one. It states, "One, our station, 9 while beautiful and on the national register, is not an ideal 10 location." 11 "Two, the purpose of Remco was to get us on Main Street with better visibility for all Mendocino- and coast-bound 12 traffic." 13 "And, three, if it's the best visibility we seek, then I 14 15 previously suggested this off Shell Lane." 16 "This is on the NCRA main line, and what makes sense if 17 we're serious about acquiring the tracks from Willits to 18 Cloverdale." 19 So based on the statements here, it appears that the 20 visibility of your station is very important to Mendocino 21 Railwav. Is that correct? 22 Α. From a -- for evaluating this from an excursion 23 basis only, that is a factor. So visibility played a major role in your 24 Q. 25 decision-making process, as far as what sites would be the 26 best. Is that correct? 27 Α. At the time the email was written, it was a

conversation that was ongoing, so it was an exchange of ideas.

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- Q. Okay. But is it correct that at that particular time, visibility was an important factor that you were taking into consideration when you were deciding which property would be most appropriate for your station?
- A. I wouldn't say that it was an important factor, but it certainly was a factor.
- Q. So you claim that it's not important where the -- whether or not the property is visible?
- A. I -- I -- again, I'm not trying -- my answer isn't trying to be obtuse. I'm not saying that it was an important factor, or that it wasn't an important factor.

I'm saying that it was a factor, and that in an ongoing discussion with my colleagues, it was something to consider.

- Q. And I see that throughout Mendocino County, these days they have significant billboards relating to the rail bikes and the Skunk Train. Is that correct?
 - A. There are billboards.
- Q. And Mendocino Railway has made a decision to spend money on marketing of its services. Is that right?
- 20 A. It's no different than what the railroad has spent 21 in the past.
 - Q. Okay. And -- and as far as tourists and sightseeing, most of the billboards that have been erected in Mendocino County relate to those type of services. Is that correct?
 - A. They do.
- Q. Okay. And are there billboards that -- that -- 28 that seem to reference the freight availability that can be

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found on the California Western Railroad?
 1
                There are not.
 2
          Α.
 3
                Is there any advertisement of freight services by
          0.
 4
    the California Western Railroad at this time?
 5
          Α.
                There are.
 6
          Q.
                Where is that located?
 7
                On the railroad's website.
          Α.
 8
                Are there any on billboards?
          Q.
 9
          Α.
                There are not.
10
                And if you look at the paragraph labeled No. 3 in
          0.
11
    this email, it references property off of Shell Lane. Is that
12
    correct?
13
                Yes.
          Α.
                And that Shell Lane is located in Willits?
14
          0.
15
          Α.
                It is.
                And can you -- is that property visible on
16
          0.
17
    Exhibit 3?
18
          Α.
                It's not visible on Exhibit 3. And yesterday when
19
    we were talking about that location, if the map were extended,
20
    it would be down in this general area.
21
         The new alignment of the 101 corridor and the -- what I'm
22
    pointing to is Exhibit 3, but the new alignment of the 101
23
    corridor is to the east of what's depicted in Exhibit 3.
24
         And the Shell Lane property is to the southeast of the
25
    lower right corner of Exhibit 3.
26
                MR. JOHNSON: I'd like to have this marked.
27
         (Respondent's Exhibit P was marked for identification.)
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BY MR. JOHNSON:

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- Q. This is a map that has been marked Exhibit P. Take a look at it. This map has been marked Exhibit P. It appears from my understanding that it relates to the portion that you were just discussing, or the property and the area you were just discussing on Exhibit 3. Is that correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And if you look at the middle of the -- the top of the page, or middle of the page, it appears that it states Mendocino Railway in a couple places.

Would that represent the Mendocino Railway line?

- A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And that would be on orange portion, or the orange portion on Exhibit 3. Is that right?
 - A. Yes. This area right here.
- Q. Okay. And, then, there's the area on the map where they have some red parcels that are outlined. Do you see those?
- 19 | A. I do.
- 20 Q. It appears to want to say Shell Lane holding LLC?
- 21 A. Yes.
 - Q. And then next to that -- next to those red parcels, there is also some parcels called Peters -- Erica Peters. Or Peters, Erica Dawn. Do you see that?
 - A. I do.
 - Q. And the parcel that you were referring to on Shell Lane in this email in No. 3 that we were just discussing, is that parcel that you were mentioning there, is that located

somewhere on this Exhibit P? 1 2 Α. Yes. 3 0. And what parcel would that be? Ending in what I believe is -07. 4 Α. 5 Is that the Peters parcel? 0. 6 Α. Yes. 7 So -07, that would be the parcels that 0. Okav. 8 appeared, or the parcel that appears to have a couple of 9 buildings on it. Is that right? 10 Α. Yes. 11 0. And then what about the parcel next to it, the 12 Erica Peters parcel that looks like it ends in -06. Was that 13 evaluated? I don't believe that it was. 14 Α. 15 Q. Okay. And what about the Peters parcels 16 referenced? It seems to be just a little to the north. 17 There's a few parcels, Erica Peters' parcels, that seem to 18 boarder the Mendocino Railway. 19 Do can you see those parcels? 20 Α. I do. 21 0. And were those evaluated? 22 Α. I don't believe that they were. We have in the 23 past, because this is an area of significant trespass and 24 criminal or illegal activity, encountered problems. 25 And as I recall from the right-of-way maps that we had, I 26 believe there was different ownership if I'm recalling 27 correctly, that it hasn't always been a contiguous family or 28 the same name.

1 0. Okay. But you didn't evaluate this area? 2 Α. No. 3 Why didn't you? 0. 4 Well, I mean, just from looking at this map today Α. 5 for the first time as you have it displayed here on the Exhibit P, there are several issues. 6 7 I'm not asking about the issues. I'm asking why 8 you didn't evaluate it. 9 I think he's trying to explain that to THE COURT: 10 There were several issues as to why you didn't evaluate 11 it? 12 THE WITNESS: That's correct. 13 MR. JOHNSON: I'm sorry. THE WITNESS: As I'm looking at this map today for 14 15 the first time, the issues that I see is that in Exhibit 3, 16 which is up here, you have the main line of the California 17 Western Railroad. 18 You have the main line, not yard limits of the NCRA. And you have this piece of property right here, which is on 19 20 Exhibit P, referring to the Peters property. 21 Well, the first thing that I'm looking at is that if you 22 were going to install a wye track, it would be almost 23 prohibitive, because, again, you're talking about the main 24 line of another yard. 25 BY MR. JOHNSON: 26 But isn't it true that you could potentially 0. 27 access these parcels off of your orange line on Exhibit 3? 28 appears that they border.

1	A. There is the potential for that.
2	Q. So just to clarify, though, when you were
3	referencing the Shell Lane property on Exhibit D, the email we
4	were just looking at, you were, effectively, referencing the
5	Peters Erica Peters parcel that ends in -07 on this map?
6	A. That is correct.
7	Q. Will you circle that for me?
8	A. Sure.
9	MR. BLOCK: Which is being circled?
10	THE WITNESS: I circled the 07.
11	BY MR. JOHNSON:
12	Q. The parcel that you were referencing in your
13	email?
14	A. Well, without having the image of what I was
15	referring to in my email in front of me, I don't know that
16	that's possible.
17	Because if I circle something, I certainly don't want to
18	include more than what was there.
19	Q. Okay.
20	A. I'm happy to put on "X" on the building.
21	Q. Okay. Well, just if you know. I'm asking you if
22	you know what parcel you were referring to, or what property
23	you were generally referring to in the email.
24	If you could somehow reflect that on the map, I would
25	appreciate it.
26	A. If it's acceptable, I will draw a line around the
27	building just to highlight the building.
28	Q. Okay.

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1
          Α.
                And I've gone ahead and done so.
 2
          0.
                Thank you.
                            And do you recall -- do you recall any
 3
    acreage related to this property about how big it was?
 4
                As I recall, I think it was about five or
 5
    six acres, maybe.
 6
                THE COURT:
                            So I'm a little confused here.
    just going to interrupt. So show me on my map. Will you
 8
    draw?
 9
         Because there's a dark orange line on this particular
    piece of property, and then this kind of just over here, and
10
    then down.
11
12
         So is it this property here that you're looking at?
13
                THE WITNESS: Yes.
                                    This property here. I don't
14
    want to draw on your map.
15
                THE COURT: Go ahead, and draw on my map.
16
    okay.
17
                THE WITNESS:
                              It was that billing that we were
18
    looking at.
19
                THE COURT: But which parcel is it?
20
                THE WITNESS: I believe it's this parcel, here.
21
    There's no defined lines, so I don't know if this parcel
22
    extends all the way up to here. But it extends down to here.
23
         So if it is truly this parcel, then, yes, I would
24
    highlight that.
                     But...
25
                THE COURT: You're not sure.
26
                THE WITNESS: I'm not certain.
27
                MR. BLOCK: I can't see which building?
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28
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Q.

BY MR. JOHNSON: 1 2 Maybe you can just state it for the record. 0. 3 the building on the south? 4 THE COURT: It's on the south. 5 THE WITNESS: So I highlighted that building. MR. BLOCK: You want to show Mr. Johnson? 6 7 BY MR. JOHNSON: 8 Q. Thank you. And just to clarify, it was your 9 belief that the property you were referring to in your email 1.0 was approximately five or six acres? 11 Α. Yes. 12 If you go back to the email, there is a number 0. 13 four that says there is and has never been anything redeeming 14 about the Skunk Train's trip from Willits depo proper to, 15 let's say, Highway 20. It's the backyards of some very 16 rundown houses and businesses. 17 As we know, the best part of the redwood route are the We don't get those now days. We just tough the 18 redwoods. periphery. 19 20 Do you recall why you mentioned this in you email? 21 I think we were talking about -- earlier about 22 placement of a station. So it was continued -- and 23 visibility. So it was continued dialogue in the same spirit. 24 So part of your evaluation as to what site would 25 be appropriate was based on the site seeing from the train. 26 Is that correct? 27 Α. Yes.

So if you go down -- we'll skip No. 5 on

1 this email. 2 If you go down to the last sentence, or paragraph, it says in summary, "I'm in favor of seeing the launch point for 3 4 the Skunk Train move to a better, more visible location." 5 "I believe it needs to make long-term sense, though. 6 What do we want the skunk to look like next year or in the 7 future decades? Thanks. R.J. Pete." 8 So, again, visibility is an important factor. Is that 9 correct, or not? 10 I think it's -- it's important, but it's also a consideration. 11 12 And in this email, there's no reference to freight 13 being evaluated in this email relating to what site is 14 appropriate. Is that correct? 15 Α. There is not. 16 Ο. Okay. I'd like you to flip to page 133 on the 17 bottom right of Exhibit D, which is the next email. 18 It appears -- the beginning of it appears on the bottom 19 of page 133, and it is an email dated January 18, 2020, that savs Mike Hart wrote? 20 21 Α. Okay. 22 0. Do you want to take a look at that real quick, and 23 read that email? 24 Α. I've read the email. 25 Okay. Okay. The -- the email says, "Interesting Ο. 26 It's ridiculously large, and steep. I would take property. 27 the 12 acres over it any day, though.

I wonder if there might be a comparable use for some part

of it, and we can let the rest just burn every year." 1 2 Do you know what parcel that is? I would guess -- I don't know what it is. 3 If I had to guess, I would say that it would be the Dudley 4 5 property, because that is 12 acres as we have discussed 6 previously. 7 And then if you go down a couple paragraphs, it 8 says, "I have reached out to both owners, and neither would call me back." And, then, in parenthesis, "(KOA and Cutter.)" 10 So did Mike Hart reach out to those KOA and Cutter 11 people? 12 He indicated to me that he did, and I don't know 13 that he did. 14 All right. And, then, the next paragraph says, 15 "While I like the idea of visibility, I also like the idea of 16 maintaining a lot less track." 17 "So getting entirely out of Willits isn't a horrible idea, and moving up the hill. Cloverdale adds an awful lot of 18 19 miles." 20 So it was one of the factors in determining the site, 21 evaluating it, if you could take care of less track? 22 I think it was one of Mike's comments, and one of 2.3 his ideas. It certainly wasn't, you know, something that I 24 subscribe to. 25 0. And then the next paragraph says, "I do like your 26 idea of being up near KOA." "It has taken me a lot of years to come around to this 27 28 position, as I had always hoped to work things out at Remco.

But perhaps leaving Willits behind and just having our own thing on the mountain makes sense. Mike."

So is it correct to say that it was your idea to put the station, or potentially put a station near KOA?

- A. As it relates to these conversations, you know, again, looking to bring cohesiveness to our operations something that isn't as disjointed as it is now has been a long-term goal.
- Q. Okay. If you go back to page 133, the email above is dated January 20, 2020, from Mike Hart, or that Mike Hart wrote. If you can take a look at that?
 - A. Okay.
- Q. And if you look at the second paragraph, it says, "I really do think that 12 acres owned by George Dudley is worth having a call. Robert, are you going to contact him?"

 Did you contact Mr. Dudly?
 - A. Via letter. And I recall speaking with his son.
 - Q. Okay. So you did contact him?
 - A. I did.
- Q. And I don't see any discussion in this email, or statements that state that -- now that the Dudley property has been brought up a few times and is 12 acres in size, it doesn't appear that there's any discussion or there's a statement being made that the 12 acres is not sufficient acreage for your project. Is that correct?
- A. I'm sorry. Would you repeat that question, please?
 - Q. Yeah. At this particular time in your

discussions, it doesn't appear that 12 acres is -- is too small a parcel for your project. Is that correct?

- A. Yes. During the time this conversation was taking place, perhaps it wasn't a consideration of ours that we had expressed in email.
 - Q. If you go to the next page, which is page 132 --
- A. Okay.

Q. -- there is an email in the middle of the page that states from Mike Hart, dated May 14, 2020. And it's to Robert Pinoli, Christopher Hart, Torgny Nilsson, and Dave Magaw. And the subject is Camp Willits.

Do you want to take a look at this email and read it?

- A. All right. Okay.
- Q. All right. It's -- if the second paragraph -- well, it's written to you. "Hi, Robert."

And then in the second paragraph, it states, "If we were to go to the -- if we were to go to the east of the crossing, we end up on the Meyer property, 20 plus acres with a ton of Highway 20 frontage, a lot of flat ground, and a very long tangent section of our railroad."

"We could build a station and plenty of car storage. The issue is that hikers, rail bikes, and trains, etcetera, need to trigger the crossing to head over the hill."

"It is a concern from a safety perspective, but, on the other hand, it is very attractive advertising that we are a railroad, and this is what is going on today."

"I can see a lot of people liking to be able to push the button."

0.

Α.

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My question is is this the first reference you're aware 1 2 of for the Meyer property being considered for the project? 3 You know, I don't -- I don't recall if it is the 4 first reference, or if it is something that we had talked 5 about on the phone prior to. 6 0. Okay. Well, do you think it is approximately in 7 this time frame when you started to discus the Meyer property? 8 Α. I think that that is a fair assessment. 9 Okay. So that would have been sometime around 0. 10 May 14, 2020? 11 Α. Yes. 12 And there is also reference to, "We could build a 0. 13 station and plenty of car storage. The issue is that hikers, 14 rail bikes, and trains, etcetera, need to trigger the crossing 15 to head over the hill." At that particular time, it doesn't look like 16 17 transloading was an issue that you were evaluating. 18 correct? 19 Α. Well, I think that Mike's reference to car storage 20 certainly indicates that. 21 Okay. But transloading -- the term "transloading" Q. 22 wasn't used. Is that right? 23 Α. The term transloading was not used in this email. 24 Okay. So is it also one of the services, I quess, 0. 25 that you provide is hiking on the railroad line? 26 Α. That is correct. Would that be considered a railroad function? 27

From the standpoint that a passenger could take

the train to a destination, get off, and then hike back. 1 2 So you consider hiking to be part of a 3 railroad-type operation? 4 Α. It -- I consider anything that involves the 5 railroad to be a part of railroad operation. Okay. Is there camping on the line? 6 Ο. 7 There is no railroad camping along the line. Α. 8 railroad-owned camping along the line. And do you consider camping to be a railroad 9 Ο. 10 function? The railroad has no camping facilities, so I 11 Α. wouldn't consider it to be a railroad function. 12 13 Okay. And, then, if you go to -- if you go to the 0. 14 next paragraph in this email, it says, "We end up with over 1,700 feet of roadway for signage and visibility." 15 16 "As I recall, there is a very large, flat valley there up against the tracks that would make a great spot for station . 17 and parking." 18 "Just along the property, there is 2,200 feet of track 19 20 that would make secure storage there. There is nothing but a few mobile homes and junction there." 21 2.2 "Obviously, the owner sees it differently. I do note that the owner doesn't show as living on the property, and 23 24 lives in Glenn County, California." 25 "Evaluation with the county is only 165- K," or thousand. "Obviously, the owner would want more for it." 2.6 27 "We could probably move our current station to this location, and get a ton of press for doing so." 28

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So it appears, from Mike Hart's perspective at least, that signage, visibility, and advertising are very important factors in determining what is the proper site. Is that correct?

A. I think from reading his email, that is an important factor.

And we were looking to do -- our goal is to put a transload facility in there, and a better billboard than we talked about earlier to advertise the transload of the freight services with the railroad that has that visibility.

- Q. Okay. And it also appears that press is very important to Mr. Hart. Is that correct?
 - A. Based on this email, yes.
- Q. Okay. And if you look down, there is also some parcel information for the Meyer property.

And I think we discussed yesterday some of the these parcels were zoned, or appeared to be zoned based on the emails as recreational, amusement/recreation. Do you see that?

- A. I do.
- Q. And I think Mr. Hart thought that that was a good type of zoning for what your operation was looking for. Is that correct?
- A. I'm not certain what his thought process was. As I mentioned yesterday in my testimony, I'm not familiar with Mendocino County's amusement/recreational zoning. I didn't know that exists.
 - Q. Does recreational zoning seem consistent with

transloading? 1 2 Α. No. 3 0. Do you think most railroad stations are -- are 4 zoned industrial, or are they zoned -- do you know what 5 they're zoned? 6 Α. I wouldn't be able to opine on that. 7 0. Okay. If you go to the next page, page 131, 8 Exhibit E, there is an email on the bottom date requested May 15, 2020, and it is an email from you. 10 Would you take a look at that? 11 Α. Okay. 12 And in this email, you state, "Quite familiar with Q. 13 that property. It was on the market for a year, and sold in 14 the last two years, maybe. Since then, folks have moved tons 15 of junk to it, I suspect for a legal grow operation." 16 "The biggest problem is being east of Highway 20." 17 "And pushing the button as in activating the gates for non rail-mounted traffic I don't think will fly with the CPUC 18 19 or FRA once they see what is going on." 2.0 Do you see that? 21 Α. I do. 22 And was that your opinion at that particular time? 0. 23 Α. With respect to pushing the button? 24 Q. Yes. 25 Α. As I testified to yesterday, that is 26 something that as someone who spent three decades in this 27 industry wouldn't fly, and I described in detail the

mechanisms for what is considered to be appropriate.

So how would you -- if you were to take an 1 operation of Mr. -- or take over and buy Mr. Meyer's property, 2 how would you address this particular issue? Using the DTMF technology that I spoke of Α. 5 vesterday. You said you think that technology would work for 6 0. 7 hikers, and rail bikes, and that type of operation? It would definitely work for rail bikes and train 8 Α. operations. I'm not certain about hikers. I don't see hikers 9 departing from that location. 10 Frankly, I would see them, if anything, taking the train 11 to a certain point, and hiking from there west. 12 13 Okay. And, then, the next paragraph says, "While praiseworthy, the cost to move the building would far exceed 14 15 the cost to build something we want for our future 16 operations." 17 And the next sentence says, "Would you like me to send a 18 letter to John Meyer?" So at this time, Mr. Hart was evaluating whether or not 19 20 to move the whole train station located in Willits to the new 21 site? 2.2 Α. It was a suggestion of his, yes. 23 Q. And -- okay. And if you go to the next email, which is on page 131, it 24 25 is an email dated May 15, 2020, at 8:59 a.m. written by Mike 26 Hart in response to the following up on what we just discussed. 2.7

It says, "We certainly could ask if they are open to

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selling. Please do ask John."
 1
 2
                Totally understand that pushing the button would
 3
    be problematic."
 4
         "As to moving the buildings, it would really just come
 5
    down to selling that property. If we could find a buyer, that
 6
    would make a lot of this work.
                                     Thanks, Mike."
 7
         So in response to this email, did you reach out to
 8
    Mr. Meyer?
 9
          Α.
                I did.
10
          0.
                And how did you contact him initially?
11
          Α.
                Via a letter.
12
                       If you -- if you flip to page 108 in
          Q.
13
    Exhibit D, do you see that?
14
          Α.
                I'm sorry. You said page 108?
15
          Q.
                Yes.
16
          Α.
                That does not exist in this binder.
17
          Q.
                It's a few pages up.
18
                THE COURT: 108?
19
                MR. JOHNSON:
                              Yeah.
20
                THE WITNESS: My pages go from 174, to 173, to
21
    127, to 129. There is no page 108.
22
    BY MR. JOHNSON:
23
          0.
                They're not necessarily in order.
24
                That's not how we learned to read in school.
          Α.
25
                Yeah. These are based on email training.
          0.
26
                THE COURT: You have to go up about six pages.
27
                THE WITNESS:
                               I'm sorry.
28
    ///
```

BY MR. JOHNSON: 1 I did this based on the emails. 2 Sorry. 0. 3 I'll find it. I was just looking at number order. Α. If Mr. Block had just sent them in order... 4 0. 5 There we are. Α. Thank you. Sorry about that. 6 0. 7 Α. That's okay. 8 0. So this is a letter dated May 16, 2020, to John 9 Meyer, and signed by Robert Jason Pinoli. 10 Is this the letter you were referring to? Yes, sir. 11 Α. 12 Ο. And did you send this letter to Mr. Meyer? I did. 13 Α. And in the letter, you state, "Dear Mr. Mayer, I'm 14 0. 15 sending this letter with an interest in acquiring the 16 20.26 acres you own at 1401 West Highway 20 in California, 17 which is adjacent to the Skunk route." Is that correct? 18 Α. If that's what it says, yes. 19 Okay. I'd like to go back to the email that we 0. 2.0 were talking about. 21 MR. BLOCK: Page 131. 22 BY MR. JOHNSON: 23 Page 131. Thank you. 0. 24 Okay. I'm there. Α. 25 Q. So, actually, if you go to page 130. The next email starts on the very bottom of page 130. It's dated 2.6 May 23, 2020, and it's from Mike Hart. Those two over to page 27 28 131, it says, "Hi, Robert."

Why don't you take a look at that email. 1 2 Thank you. I've read it. Α. 3 Okay. It states, "Hi, Robert." 0. Back on this issue of ED. Is ED referring to eminent 4 5 domain? I believe that is exactly what Mr. Hart was 6 7 referring to. Okay. So this letter was written on May 23, 2020, 8 -- or this email. 9 So it was, effectively, written one weak after the letter 10 that we just discussed that was sent to Mr. Meyer on May 16, 11 2020. Is that correct? 12 13 Α. Yes. And -- and then the second sentence of this email 0. 14 15 says, "Is this site good enough to justify using ED if we 16 don't get a reply to your letter? We need to come up with our 17 plan." 18 "And, Robert, you have indicated that the property on the other side of the tracks, Dudley, is probably more difficult, 19 20 as it is more developed." "This one is vacant, and largely inexpensive today. All 2.1 the buildings are temporary or mobile." 22 23 "I am fine with either approach, but want to make that plan about what we are going to do on this side of the hill." 24 I'm sorry. I read that wrong. "I do want to make a plan 25 about what we want to do on this side of the hill, which 26 property would you want to pursue unilaterally." 27 And the reference of pursuing unilaterally, is that meant 28

to be a reference to taking someone's property through the 1 2 process of eminent domain? 3 It's Mr. Hart's email, so I'm not going to speak Α. 4 for what his thought was. 5 0. When you read this email, did you understand what 6 his thought was? 7 Α. You know, he is contemplating back to the issue of ED, and he's asking me an opinion on if the site is good 8 9 enough to justify using ED. And that is certainly an opinion not for me. That's for 10 legal counsel. So I --11 12 Okay. But my question to you is when you -- when Ο. 1.3 you read this email, you understand that he was talking about 14 potentially taking the property via eminent domain. 15 correct? 16 Α. Yes. 17 0. Additionally, this email reflects that -- states, 18 "Robert, you have indicated that the property on the other 19 side of the tracks, Dudley, is probably more difficult, as it 2.0 is more developed." Is that a true statement? 21 Α. That it indicated that the property on the other side of the tracks would be more difficult? 22 23 0. As it is more developed, yes? 2.4 It is certainly a more difficult piece of property because of the natural barriers that present themselves. 2.5 26 0. But my question to you is that did you, Robert, 27 indicate that the property on the other side of the tracks,

Dudley, is more difficult because it is more developed?

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Did you make that representation to Mike Hart at some point?

- I may have in a phone conversation.
- Q. Okay. So one of the factors -- or, in this case, would it be true to say that the Dudley property -- a major factor in determining whether it was a major parcel to take or to buy was that it was more developed and would cost more money?
- I think that that wasn't necessarily a factor in Α. that it's a heck of a lot easier to work with a clean canvas, bare piece of property than to work around existing infrastructure that you are not going to use.
- 13 Okay. But, again, was cost not a factor in 0. 14 purchasing the Dudley property?
 - Α. We didn't even talk about a number with the owner.
 - Was cost a factor in purchasing the Dudley 0. property, how much it would cost to purchase?
 - At this point, I would have to say no, simply because I never had a conversation with Mr. Dudley's son about the price.
- 21 So as of this -- as of this email of 22 May 23rd that was sent one week after the letter was sent to 23 Mr. Meyer, had you -- do you know if you received any type of a response from Mr. Meyer at that time?
 - I don't recall. Α.
 - Well, the second sentence of this e-mail says, "Is 0. this site good enough to justify using ED if we don't get a reply to your letter?"

Would it be correct to infer that probably you had not 1 received a response from Mr. Meyer at that particular time? 2 3 Again, just because I -- if I would have received a response from Mr. Meyer, that wouldn't indicate that I would 5 pick up the phone immediately and call Mr. Hart. That's not how I conduct the operations of my company. 6 Okay. So you don't know if you had received a 7 0. 8 response at that time. Is that correct? I believe in subsequent email, that may have come 9 Α. up in relation to the subject property. 10 I didn't speak to Mr. Meyer until much later in May. 11 think it may have been into June. So that's at least what I 12 13 remember. And this -- in this email, it also states at the 0. 14 15 last sentence, "I am fine with either approach, but do not 16 want to make a plan on what we are going to do." 17 Excuse me, I keep saying that incorrectly. "I am fine with either approach, but do want to make a plan about what we 18 19 are going to do on this side of the hill." It appears at that time Mendocino Railway did not have a 20 plan for this site? 21 22 For Mr. Meyer's site? Α. 23 For any site? 0. We had ideas and an ongoing discussion. 24 Α. You did not have a specific plan? 25 Q. That is correct. 26 Α. But even without a plan, you were initially 27 0.

discussing taking property by eminent domain.

28

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Q.

correct? 2 Based on the emails, yes. Yes. Α. 3 Q. Okay. I'd like to go to the next email on page It's an email from Mr. Hart to Robert Pinoli. Why don't 5 you read it? 6 MR. BLOCK: What is the date? 7 BY MR. JOHNSON: 8 May 28, 2020. Q. 9 Α. Okay. 10 If you look at the last sentence of this e-mail Q. from Mr. Hart to you, it says, "I just know that we need to 11 12 figure out where it is going to be so we can start planning 13 budgeting and finding the money to make it happen." 14 Do you see that? 15 Α. I do. 16 Was -- was budgeting and finding the money factors 0. 17 in determining what site was most appropriate? I think it's, you know, Mr. Hart, as I described 18 19 yesterday, is a serial entrepreneur, in that he's flying at 60,000 feet when others often fly at 30,000 feet. 20 21 He's also an extremely anxious person, in that, in his 22 opinion, everything needs to be done ASAP. And I'm a more methodical person, and that's how I run the organization. 23 24 So I think that what he's trying to convey here is his sense of, you know, let's get something done. Let's keep the 25 26 project moving forward.

Okay. But my question is was budgeting and

He's not putting anything on the back burner.

finding the money to make the project happen a factor in your analysis of what was the proper site?

- A. It was a comment that Mr. Hart made, and it was not necessarily a factor in my decision. I -- my decision was based on what would work best for the ongoing and future operations of the railroad.
- Q. Okay. Now, the decision on the -- on the site was made, effectively, by you and Mr. Mike Hart. Is that correct?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. And you collectively made the decision on what's the proper site?
 - A. We did.
- Q. And as part of that analysis, did at some point budgeting and finding the money to make the project happen go into the analysis of what is the proper site?
- A. I think in our -- in our -- in our many discussions that we had, you know, we're talking about what it is going to take to fully develop a site.
- And so, yes, I would say that we did have those discussions. And that was, you know, part of our ongoing conversations.
- Q. Okay. so this -- this e-mail that we just discussed was May 28th.
- If you go to the e-mail on the same page, above it, it is dated almost a month later. It's January -- excuse me,

 June 26, 2020. And it's an email from you.
- 27 And I would imagine this email was to Mike Hart as well.
 28 Is that correct?

1	A. Yes. I would yes, it would probably have been
2	replying in thread.
3	Q. Okay. So the sentence below, the first sentence
4	says, "I guess all our conversations have been via phone since
5	this last email. I can't find a more recent email in the
6	thread."
7	So it would appear that you were you were,
8	effectively, responding to the email thread relating to this
9	subject. Is that correct?
10	A. Yes.
11	Q. Can you read this email to yourself, please?
12	A. I've read the email.
13	Q. Okay. In the first paragraph, there is a dot, and
L4	then it says, "KOA. I spoke with Zack today. His cousin, who
15	is his main partner, would be willing to sell."
16	"Zack tossed out a number of 5,000,000. He said that is
L7	about the going rate for a park that generates 1,000,000
18	annually."
19	"They purchased it for 3.3, or somewhere about, and put
20	in a few hundred thousand. They were also open to a
21	partnership, and want us to suggest the arrangement."
22	"Frankly, an outright purchase would be cleanest."
23	That paragraph is would it be correct to say that in
24	that paragraph, you are referring to making contact with Zack,
25	one of the partners at the KOA campground?
26	A. That is correct.
7 7	O So at this time by Tune 26 2020 you had had

conversations with the KOA about the potential purchase?

28

Α.

Α. Yes. 1 2 So that was being done in conjunction, or at the 0. 3 same time with your conversations that you were potentially 4 having with Mr. Meyer? 5 Α. That is correct. And, then, if you go down the next paragraph in 6 0. this email, it says -- there is a dot, and then it says, 8 "Meyer. I spoke with John today, and he said he was going to 9 contemplate this over the weekend, and get back to me over 1.0 Wednesday evening." 11 "If he doesn't welcome me reaching out to him again, I suspect he's going to want 450,000 as a starting point. I 12 don't think we offend him if we offer \$400,000." 13 14 "He seemed hellbent on wanting to do the well and septic. I said, 'If you sell it to us, we'll do it,' as to not create 15 16 further delay." 17 Is it your understanding that that paragraph is relating to conversations you had with John Meyer regarding the subject 18 19 property? 20 Α. Yes. 21 And at that time, was Mr. Meyer developing -- in Q. 22 the process of developing his property? 23 Α. I wouldn't say in the process of developing. 24 was contemplating, based on the phone conversation that we 25 had. 26 Well, your email says he seemed hellbent on 0. 2.7 wanting to do well and septic? 28 As I recall from the conversation that I had with

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Mr. Meyer, he was looking to find ways to improve the value of his property.

And I had indicated that for our purposes, let us deal with the well and the septic because we -- based on what we're going to put in there, we would want to have a say as to where those go.

- Q. But at that particular time, didn't he have a well permit and a septic permit? Do you know?
 - A. That I do not know.
- Q. So you don't know if he was in the process of putting in a well and a septic system at that particular time?
 - A. I do not know that.
- Q. So it appearing that by June -- would it be correct to say by June 26, 2020, the two main sites that you were evaluating for your project were the KOA site and the Meyer property?
 - A. Based on this email, yes.
- Q. Okay. Even not based on this email, is it correct to say that at this particular time, those were the two sites you were focusing on?
 - A. I think it is fair to say that.
- Q. If you go to the next page, that's page 129, there is an email from Mike Hart to you, Jeff Miller, and Chris Hart. It's dated June 27, 2020.
- Will you read that, please?
- A. I've read the email.
- Q. It states, "Thank you. Thank you for the update, Robert." And then it, again, goes into an evaluation of the

0.

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KOA site, it appears. 1 2 It says, "KOA would certainly be the most interesting 3 place for us to locate, from their 93 spaces. I don't know what their EBITDA might be, but for the 3.3 million they paid, it would need to have at least 330,000 profit, I would think." "I don't think the market has improved with time and 6 circumstances. But this is a negotiation, and they are 7 8 starting high." 9 Do you know why he -- Mr. Hart said that this would --10 the KOA would certainly be the most interesting site for us to 11 locate? 12 Not -- I'm not sure what -- what his thinking was Α. 13 there. 14 0. So when -- when -- would it be common when 15 Mr. Hart would send you emails and you wouldn't understand 16 what he was thinking, that you wouldn't follow up with 17 questions about that? Not every email that Mr. Hart sends gets a 18 Α. 19 response. 20 What about emails about eminent domain and the 0. 21 taking of people's property? They didn't justify a response, 22 either? 2.3 At this point in time, we hadn't started the 24 process of eminent domain. 25 Q. It had been discussed. Is that right? 26 Α. It had been. 2.7 So is it common for you and Mr. Hart not to

understand each other when you have discussions?

Sometimes, even after a 20-year business 1 2 relationship, there can be misunderstandings. Okay. And the reference to 93 stations, is that a 3 Q. 4 reference to 93 RV or camping spaces? 5 Α. I believe it is. 6 0. And the reference to EBITDA, does that refer to 7 earnings before interest, taxes, and appreciation? 8 Α. That is correct. 9 That is a financial or accounting term? Q. 10 Α. It is an accounting term. 11 In this email, the evaluation of the KOA 0. campground is being analyzed. It appears that the key issue 12 13 is the return on investment. Is that correct? 14 Α. Yes. That is correct. The section below states, "Meyer. Interesting 15 Q. Well and septic are both important for us too." 16 option. 17 "Odd he is pushing to get it done immediately. Given the number of campers he has on site, I wonder if he is just 18 19 dumping illegally right now, or if there is an old system." 20 "400,000 for a new site strikes me as a bargain. 21 issue is just if we are better off on a green field on the 22 other side of the highway, or not." 23 The reference to green field, is that, like, an open 24 area? 25 Α. I think -- no. I believe it is a reference to the 2.6 -- if there are any environmental considerations, or 27 environmental restrictions related to the Cutter property. 28 Q. The Cutter property, or Meyer property?

1	A. The Cutter property. The Cutter Lumber Mill				
2	across the street.				
3	Q. Oh. So this reference to green field is to the				
4	Cutter property?				
5	A. I believe that is what it is referencing, because				
6	green field is an environmental term.				
7	Q. So at that particular time, you were still				
8	evaluating the Cutter property as well?				
9	A. After reading this email, it appears that way.				
10	Q. And it also appears that, at least from				
11	Mr. Meyer's property, the evaluation of prices is definitely a				
12	factor in whether or not that would be an appropriate site.				
13	Is that correct?				
14	A. It appears that that is correct.				
15	Q. The KOA campground, it had or has when you were				
16	evaluating it 93 spaces for camping and RV parking. What else				
17	does it have on it that you are aware of?				
18.	A. I'm sorry. What was the question? What else does				
19	the KOA have on it?				
20	Q. Yeah. What are the improvements that you are				
21	aware of on the KOA property?				
22	A. Oh. There are restroom buildings. I believe				
23	there are shower facilities in there. There are outbuildings				
24	for maintenance.				
25	There is a front office building in the store. I don't				
26	believe they have their petting zoo active any more.				
27	And the sites, as I recall, up to the front of the				
28	property contain full service hookups for RVers. So full				

1 service, meaning electrical, sewer, water. 2 Is there a pool? 0. 3 Α. I believe there is a pool. 4 0. And is there a camping area? 5 Α. I suppose you could put tents up, although I oftentimes see -- have always seen travel trailers. I don't 6 7 know that I've seen tents. 8 Q. Okay. And is there a miniature golf course? 9 Α. That I do not recall. 10 Q. And is there -- there are some permanent 11 buildings for -- that people can stay in as well. Is that 12 correct? Cabins? 13 Α. Yes. They do have what they call their camping 14 cabins. They spell each with a "K". Yes. 15 So at that particular time, you felt that having 0. your train station right next to that or on that property 16 17 would potentially be acceptable? There were certain -- at the time, yes. 18 19 doing a walk-through of the property, and, as I spoke to 20 yesterday, certainly a lot of logistical issues primarily 21 related to ingress and egress. 22 And then the fact that the property is divided by a 23 creek, not to mention that it is a very narrow piece of property, and that there are other natural barriers that 24 25 really preclude it from growing beyond its existing footprint, 26 meaning that the up slope, change in elevation is pretty 2.7 significant.

(Respondent's Exhibit Q was marked for identification.)

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1
                MR. BLOCK:
                             This is 0?
 2
    BY MR. JOHNSON:
 3
          0.
                Yes.
 4
         Mr. Pinoli, this is an aerial photograph that has been
 5
    marked Exhibit Q. On it, there is a portion of a parcel that
 6
    looks like a part of it was, effectively, cut off.
 7
         But, for the most part, a -- a representation -- I would
    represent that this red parcel is the KOA Campground property.
    Is that correct?
 9
1.0
                As I recall from the -- the -- when I walked the
          Α.
11
    property, this parcel also includes the parcel to the north of
12
    it that has the body of water.
13
         So that is also part of the KOA property.
14
          0.
                Okay. All right: So -- so just to clarify for
15
    the record, the KOA property would consist of, potentially,
16
    two parcels, the one parcel on Exhibit Q that has the red line
17
    around it, and then, additionally, there is another parcel to
18
    the north, which is reflected with not as bold of a line, that
19
    has a large pond on it. Is that correct?
20
          Α.
                That is correct.
21
          0.
                So when you're talking about evaluating, or
22
    Mendocino Railway evaluating the KOA parcel, they would
23
    reflect this parcel in bold, and the parcel with the pond on
2.4
         Is that right?
    it.
25
          Α.
                Yes.
26
          Q.
                Will you just draw a line around that pond parcel
27
    as well, please?
28
                       I've done that.
          Α.
                Sure.
```

28

1 0. And the Mendocino Railway and your team studied 2 the KOA parcel for quite a while. Is that correct? 3 We did spend a bit of time on it. 4 Q. And where is the existing entrance to the KOA 5 Campground where you access it? 6 It's almost cutoff by this aerial image. Α. 7 In fact, it is actually cutoff by this aerial image. 8 the right of the parcel that is highlighted in red -- to the 9 right-hand side. It is about mid-page down on this 10 8-and-a-half-by-11. 11 And it is where the two darker red lines sort of come 12 together at a head, if you will. That is about where the 13 entrance to the parcel is. 14 Okay. So, effectively, to access the parcel, you Q. come in off Highway 20, which is cut off a little on there, 15 16 and then you enter through this area, which looks like it's 17 been developed. Is that correct? 18 Yes. And if it is helpful, I would be happy to 19 show you on Exhibit 3. 20 Q. Sure. 21 So this right here where I am pointing to is the 22 entrance to the KOA. 23 Right. Okay. Q. Thank you. 24 You're welcome. Α. 25 So the way the entrance is set up, if you were 0. 26 going to use this parcel for a railroad to access it by car or

truck, you would have to drive through all of the -- or,

effectively, drive through much of the improvements on the

28

1 property. Is that right? 2 And that's a limiting factor to this Α. Yes. 3 property. 4 There is I will say a secondary road when the driveway 5 comes in off of Highway 20 that splits and goes up behind the infrastructure of the buildings, but it is too steep. 6 7 We evaluated that for possible ingress and egress 8 options. 9 You would -- you would have to move buildings, and it 10 doesn't solve or resolve the problem that it will come to a 11 head at the intersection just before the intersection of 12 Highway 20. 13 Q. So it really doesn't look like this property is very conducive to transloading, and offloading, and 14 15 freight-type operations. Is that correct? That is correct. 16 Α. So why did -- why did the Mendocino Railway spend 17 0. 18 so much time evaluating this particular parcel? If its main goal, based on what you stated yesterday, is 19 20 freight, why would they even spend time looking at this 21 parcel? 22 Again, it's one of those things that I -- that 23 Mr. Hart was -- wanted to flush out in its entirety, and we 24 did so accordingly. 25 So you believe that -- that your train operations, 0. 26 and your transloading, and your wyes, and your maintenance

yards, that type of operation with large trucks and traffic is

consistent or would function with the KOA. Is that correct?

- A. It would not function at the KOA property. You would not be able to do transloading or install a wye because of a variety of -- of issues with the property.

 Q. So I -- and so why did you spend months evaluating this property?
- A. Again, I -- as I mentioned before, Mr. Hart wanted to have -- continued the conversation, and so we did.

But in the end, it's certainly not the property for all of the reasons I have stated.

Q. It seems like you are a very assertive person who is very well aware of the operation, or what is required to operate a railroad, given your experience.

It just seems odd that if the main focus was freight, that this site would be evaluated for months, don't you think?

- A. Sometimes in relationships, personal and professional, we have to go down roads that we may not want to travel, and, as a result of that, you know, conversations tend to drag on longer than some of us would like.
- Q. Okay. We've started on the first email that we've discussed, which was January 17, 2020. And now we're on the email -- we're discussing the email I believe from June 27th.

So it's, effectively, over six months of emails on this issue. And I don't recall seeing one reference to the word freight in any of them.

Is there a reason why freight was never discussed in these emails for some reason?

A. I'm not certain why it wouldn't have been discussed. I know that it was a part of our verbal

conversations. 1 I'd like you to go to page 128. 2 Okay. 0. 3 And if you go to the bottom of the page on 128, there is an email dated 1/27 from yourself to Mr. Hart, Jeff Miller, 4 5 and Chris Hart. Jeff Miller, he is your financial analysis person? 6 7 Yeah. He is our chief financial officer. Α. 8 And I believe you said Chris Hart is the Q. Okay. 9 vice president? 10 Chris Hart is the vice president of business Α. 11 development. 12 Q. If you go to page 129, that email continues on that page. It says the KOA -- I am going to move forward, 13 14 so we can review their numbers. Is that -- is that a reference to you're going to ask 15 Zack to provide you with their financial documents of KOA? 16 17 I believe so, yes. Α. And, then, the next paragraph says, "Meyer, I have 18 0. since yesterday afternoon learned that he is stalling because 19 20 he is trying to play a property swap tax game." 21 "He wants to -- to 1031 this for a property in Puerto 22 Rico, which he can't do, since the rules governing 1031 23 prevent that." "He suggested us buying the property in PR, and then 24 25 swapping it with this property to avoid cap gains, which he 26 will not accomplish, either." 27 So at that particular time, were you in discussions with

Mr. Meyer to do a property purchase, or 1031 exchange sale?

28

1	A. A property purchase, yes.
2	Q. So at this particular time, you thought the KOA
3	site was appropriate enough that you would spend the time and
4	energy evaluating their finances. Is that correct?
5	A. That I was going to have Jeff Miller evaluate
6	their finances. I wasn't going to evaluate them other than
.7	from a cursory overlook.
8	Q. At that particular time, though, you thought it
9	was appropriate for Mendocino Railway to spend the time,
10	energy, and effort of their chief financial officer to
11	evaluate the KOA financial documents. Is that correct?
12	A. Yes.
13	Q. And their financial documents did play a role in
14	your evaluation of the site. Is that correct?
15	A. It was one of the reasons that got me out to go
16	and look at the site, and walk the site, and make a final
17	determination.
18	Q. Okay. If you go to the next page, or go back up
19	to the page 128, the email above says on June 27th it's an
20	email from Chris Hart that states, "For Meyer property, would
21	a friendly eminent domain possibly buy him a couple of years?"
22	"From a negative point of view, I suppose it starts the
23	clock on him doing something, but at least then he'd have cash
24	in hand and time to act. Chris."
25	Do you know what he's referring to?
26	A. I think Mr. Hart is referring to a process whereby

one could enter into a stipulated arrangement for the sale and

have tax benefits as a result of that, which would be

group what their thought was.

considered a 1033 under the IRS code, not a 1031. 1 2 A 1033 exchange? 0. 3 Α. Yes. And that refers to an exchange that arises out of 4 0. 5 an eminent domain action? 6 Α. That's correct. 7 So it appears that your company was familiar with 0. the eminent domain process at that particular time? 8 9 Α. Yes. 10 0. And, then, if you go to the next page -- excuse me, the next email above, it says -- it's an email from Mike 11 12 Hart to Chris Hart, to your self, and Jeff Miller. 13 It says, "Excellent point." So, again, at that time, Mr. Hart, the CEO, was aware of 14 15 the benefits of potentially having an eminent domain action, 16 and, also, was involved with an eminent domain action. 17 that correct? 18 Α. Based on his response, it would appear so. 19 0. And, then, if you go to the page 127, at the bottom there is an email dated June 27, 2020, from you that 20 stated on page 128, "What does friendly ED get us besides 21 2.2 added legal cost?" question mark. 23 Is that your understanding, or is that your belief at 24 that particular time that eminent domain might not be a good 25 idea? 26 A friendly eminent domain process might not be a Α. 27 It was a question that I was raising to ask the good idea.

```
1
          Q.
                If you go to the email above that on 127, again,
    it's an email from Chris Hart. And it says, "Only suggested
 3
    ED if it was needed to make the deal happen."
 4
         Is it your opinion that this eminent domain action was
 5
    filed on Mr. Meyer to put pressure on him to sell the property
 6
    to you?
          Α.
                     That is not my understanding.
                No.
 8
          0.
                And was the eminent domain action filed to somehow
 9
    put Mr. Meyer in a disadvantage, as far as the negotiation is
10
    concerned, for the sale of the property?
11
          Α.
                Absolutely not.
12
                Was that a factor in filing the eminent domain
          0.
    action for Mendocino Railway?
13
14
                I'm sorry. Was what a factor?
          Α.
15
                Was -- was one of the factors of the reason -- or
          0.
16
    one of the reasons why the eminent domain action was filed
17
    against Mr. Meyer would be to put him in some difficult
18
    position?
19
                     Not to put him in a difficult position at
          Α.
                No.
20
    all.
21
                If you go to the next email, dated June 28th on
          0.
22
    page 127, it is from Jeff Miller to Mike Hart, Chris Hart, and
23
    yourself.
24
         It states Robert, "It sounds like some good options.
25
    me know when you get the KOA financials."
26
         "I would think with the uncertainty, they may end up just
27
    trying to get back what they paid out of it, but we will see."
```

"I wonder if we should do a matrix of pros and cons with

28

1 these properties." 2 "I think in the end, if something is visible, it will 3 KOA campers could be a consistent source for attract traffic. 4 rail lags." 5 "Best regards. Jeff Miller." 6 At this particular time, it appears that the main issue 7 in evaluating these properties is their financial return to Mendocino Railway. Is that correct? 8 9 Well, with the consideration of the KOA, I mean, Α. 10 there was more than just simply bare land. It was an 11 operating business, so that was a whole other layer of 12 complexities. 13 So to answer my question, though, my question is Q. at this particular time that you're analyzing the Meyer 14 15 property and the KOA property, it appears that the major focus 16 is on what the financial return would be to Mendocino Railway. 17 Is that correct? 18 Based on the fact that the KOA property is Α. Yes. 19 not a bare land piece of property. 20 But you were also factoring that financial impact 21 and the financial analysis of potentially purchasing 22 Mr. Meyer's property and comparing that with the financial 23 return you would receive at Mendocino Railway and purchasing 24 the KOA property. Is that correct? 25 Α. I'm sorry. Would you repeat the question, please? 26 Q. Well, you stated that you were analyzing the KOA

property financials to figure out what the return on

investment was. Is that correct?

1 Α. That is correct. 2 0. And at that particular time, you were evaluating 3 the Meyer property and the KOA property. Is that correct? 4 That is correct. Α. 5 And in conjunction with evaluating both of those 0. 6 properties, I would expect that, also, while you were 7 evaluating the financial return on the KOA property, you were also evaluating the KOA return you would receive if you were 9 to evaluate the Meyer property. Is that correct? 10 Thank you. That is a fair assessment. Α. Yes. 11 Okay. If you go to page 126, there is an email 12 dated June 30, 2020, from you. 13 It says, "Gentlemen, in the attached email are three attachments from Willits KOA: A few things to note," and then 14 15 it talks about the gross income expense, net operating income, 16 net income, and the 2019 P and Ls. 17 That's a profit and loss. Is that what that relates too? 18 Α. Yes. 19 There is also a refund on TOT. What is that? 0. 20 Α. Transit occupancy tax. 21 And there is a reference to long-term rentals 0. 22 range. Do you see that? 23 Α. Yes. 24 0. And that -- that talks about the financial return 25 on long-term rents. Is that correct? 26 A. That is correct. 27 And, then, we have references to management fees

and licensing fees, expenses. Is that correct?

1 Α. That is correct. So at this particular time, would that be the time 0. 3 that the financials were obtained by Mendocino Railway for the 4 KOA? 5 Α. It appears, yes. 6 And at that time, you had briefly gone through the 0. finances, and incorporated some of the major materials in this 8 email. Is that right? 9 Some of the highlights. And then did you provide the financial 10 0. 11 documentation to Mr. Miller, Mike Hart, Chris Hart, and Torqny 12 Nillson? 13 Α. Yes. We'll go on to the next -- the next page is 14 0. 108, which is the letter we discussed. And then it looks like 15 16 this is a new email chain. 17 We'll go on to -- do you want to take a break, Your 18 Honor? 19 I was just going to say it looks THE COURT: Yes. 20 like you're going into a new area, and I've got to respond to 21 a couple things. So that would be great if we can take a 22 So 10:45. I mean, 9:45. 10:45. 23 (Recess) 24 THE COURT: All right. Let's go back on the 25 record. 26 BY MR. JOHNSON: 2.7 Q. Mr. Pinoli, I'd ask that you get out the big 28 binder. And if you could look at Exhibit 33?

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1
         There's Exhibit 33. In there, there's a reference to
 2
    page 171. It has a map on it. It's a much higher quality map
 3
    than the one that we have here.
         Exhibit 33-75. I'm sorry. Do you see that?
 4
 5
          Α.
                I do.
 6
          Q.
                Will you briefly look at this map, and then review
    this email? And I have some questions.
 8
          Α.
                All right.
 9
                Okay. This is an email. It is -- in Exhibit 33,
          0.
10
    it's Exhibit 33-75. And then it goes over to Exhibit 33-76.
11
    And it's an email dated July 19, 2020, from Mike Hart. Is
12
    that correct?
13
          Α.
                Yes.
14
          0.
                And do you recall receiving a copy of this email?
15
          Α.
                I do recall.
16
                Okay. And on top of the email is it looks like an
          0.
17
    aerial photograph of the Meyer property with some references
18
    that we'll go over. Is that correct?
19
          Α.
                Yes.
20
                And is it your understanding that Mike Hart
          Q.
21
    prepared this document or had this document prepared, this
22
    map?
23
          Α.
                Yes.
24
          0.
                Mike Hart is your boss. Is that correct?
25
          Α.
                He is the president and CEO of CR Railroad
26
    Company, and I report to the board of Mendocino Railway.
2.7
                Do you report to Mr. Hart?
          0.
28
          Α.
                I do.
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1 0. Was it your understanding this map was prepared on 2 or around July 19, 2020? 3 Α. Based on email date, I would say it is possible 4 that yes. Okay. And that's approximately seven months after 5 0. 6 this -- the site analysis began for the next project or train 7 station parcel. Is that correct? 8 Α. Yes. 9 Q. And is it your understanding that this map 10 represents, generally, the site map that would be used for the 11 development of the Meyer property by Mendocino Railway? 12 Α. I'm sorry. Would you repeat that question, 13 please? 14 At the time of July 19th, was this, basically, the 15 outline of the -- of the proposal for the use of the Meyer 16 property if the Mendocino Railway were to purchase it? 17 It was a suggestion by Mr. Hart. It wasn't the Α. 18 company's decision. 19 So at that particular time, a formal 20 decision had not been made. Is that correct? 21 Α. That's correct. 22 0. But this was his proposal. Is that for discussion 23 purposes? 24 Α. It is his sketch. 25 So just to go through this sketch a little, at the 0. 26 top there, in -- in yellow in the middle of the map, it says 27 Park RR Coaches, Advertising Along The Road.

Does that RR coaches refer to railroad coaches?

1 Α. I believe it does, yes. 2 And then there's a yellow line that bisects the 0. 3 property, and it seems to attach to Highway 20 at two points, 4 and says Access Road on I. Do you see that? 5 Α. T do. So would that be like the road that would access 6 0. 7 the parcel? 8 Α. Based on this sketch, that is an idea, yes. 9 0. And then on the left side it says same area as KOA long term RV rental park. Do you see that? 10 11 I do. Α. 12 0. All right. So under this, would it be correct to 13 say under this sketch, the thought process at that particular time would be to have a rental -- RV rental park similar to 14 15 the KOA. Is that right? 16 That was one of Mike's ideas. Α. 17 0. And do you recall that the KOA had 93 rental RV 18 Is that right? spaces? 19 Α. I believe we spoke of that 93 number earlier 20 today, yes. 21 0. Okay. And, then, it appears that in the middle, 22 there is some parking that's referenced. Is that right? 23 Α. Yes. 24 0. And, then, at the bottom near the railroad, it 25 says Station Store, right? 26 I see that. Α. 27 That would be like the train depo station. 0. 28 Is that right?

1	A. Based on its description, yes.
2	Q. And then on the right, it says, "Same area as KOA
3	primary campground, but with better shade and creek."
4	Is it your understanding that this area would, then, be
5	used for a primary campground by the train passengers?
6	A. Well, based on the description of primary
7	campground. It doesn't say anything about train passengers.
8	Q. Okay. And, then, the blue. That's a creek? The
9	blue portion?
10	A. Yes. That is consistent with where the the
11	waterways are for this area.
L2	Q. Okay. I'd like to refer to the text on this
L3	document.
L 4	If you go to the the second paragraph on this email, I
L5	says, essentially, "I took the reported figures by month. And
L 6	only 2019 is complete, unless these other rents are not
_7	reflected."
L8	"I then modified the categories where I thought we would
L9	do better than the current model, most, notably, their entire
20	staff cost is running the front office, which would directly
21	merge with our ticketing office. So very likely it would see
22	a total coverage of this cost."
23	Is this an analysis of or represents a partial
24	analysis of what cost savings may occur if the Mendocino
25	Railway were to take over the KOA Campground?
26	A. I think it is fair to say that that is what is
27	going on.

Q. And then the next sentence says, "I also agree

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with the notion that KOA does nothing for us. I'm happy to drop the need for that royalty."

That reflects a royalty that is paid to the company that

That reflects a royalty that is paid to the company that operates what effectively is a franchise, the KOA franchise. Is that right?

- A. That's correct.
- Q. And then it states, "If we were to build from scratch, it would definitely cover the parking area with solar shades, and that could have a big impact on the utility bill."

So that's a reference to building a KOA-type campground from scratch. Is that correct?

- A. That's what it indicates.
- Q. I won't go through the rest of this, this next paragraph, but it appears that there is a financial analysis that is going on as far as the operation of the KOA. Is that correct?
 - A. Yes. That is correct.
- Q. And then if you go to page 172, it states in the first paragraph, "The alternative is to go to the Meyer property across the street, which can probably buy for 400,000."

"I marked the area to match their long-term parking area to the left and their current RV park to the right."

"I then placed our center store in the center, with parking around the whole central region."

"Visibility is great, and we can add some RR equipment on the road to get some additional attention."

"Although this is only 20 acres, versus the 36 acres, we

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actually end up with more useable space here and loading area,
 1
 2
    station, shops, et cetera."
 3
         Do you see that?
 4
          Α.
                I do.
                So at this particular time in July 2020, Mr. Hart
 5
          Q.
    at least had a plan to make -- use the Meyer property in the
 6
 7
    fashion that is reflected in the map on Exhibit 33-75.
 8
    that correct?
 9
                I'm sorry. Would you repeat that question,
10
    please?
11
          0.
                At the time this email was written, it appears
12
    that Mr. Hart's plan of use for the Meyer property would be
13
    what was reflected in the map?
14
          Α.
                Yes.
15
                And at that particular time, it definitely does
          0.
    not look like there is any reference to transloading.
16
17
    correct?
18
                There is no written reference to transloading.
          Α.
19
          Q.
                Okay. It doesn't appear that there is a reference
20
    to a wye, as has been discussed. Is that correct?
21
          Α.
                There is no written reference to wye.
22
          Q.
                There is also no reference on here to a
23
    maintenance area. Is that right?
24
          Α.
                And there is no written reference to a maintenance
25
    area.
26
          Q.
                And there is no reference to a pit. Is that
2.7
    correct?
28
                And there is no written reference to a pit.
          Α.
```

Α.

1	Q. All right. And there seems to be no written
2	reference to an area that would be used for freight. Is that
3	correct?
4	A. And there is no written reference that would be
5	used for freight.
6	Q. The next paragraph of this email says the math.
7	"So if the KOA owners would sell for 4,000,000, rather
8	than 5,000,000, as they indicated with Robert, we would have
9	to adjust the Meyer property to adjust in value."
LO	"We would induct the \$400 to purchase."
L1	"We would then have 3,600,000 for infrastructure, et
L2	cetera."
L3	"If we wanted to run the RV park, to build 93 spaces on
L4	average would cost just under 2,000,000, based on the average
L5	RV park costs."
L 6	"We would then have 1.6 million to cover the costs of a
L7	new pool, amenities, landscaping, main road, et cetera."
L8	Do you see that?
L9	A. I do.
20	Q. And so in this particular paragraph, Mr. Hart is
21	figuring out the math, and he is specifically evaluating the
22	costs relating to buying the KOA versus effectively creating
23	the same type of infrastructure on the Meyer property. Is
24	that right?
25	A. He's having that yes. Having that written
26	discussion.
27	Q. Including building a pool, correct?

That's what it says, yes.

1 And, then, if you go down -- skip the one sentence 2 and go down to the next paragraph, it says, "My opinion is the Meyer property is a huge capitalize advantage for you, as we 3 4 would end up with new infrastructures designed in the way that 5 helps lower cost." "We get great highway visibility, and a really nice place 6 7 to build our station, et cetera." 8 Do can you see that? 9 Α. I do. 10 Q. And so it appears that at this point Mr. Hart is 11 -- is explaining his opinion as to which opinion is better for 12 your needs. Is that correct? 13 Α. Yes. He is explaining his opinion. 14 Q. And it appears that -- based on this email that the major issues were return on investment, costs involved in 15 16 constructing or buying the infrastructure desired by Mendocino 17 Railway, and visibility. Is that correct? 18 Based on this email, those are his comments. Α. 19 Q. At least at this point, there has been no 20 evaluation of whether or not the property would be for the greatest public good or the least private injury as caused by 21 22 the eminent domain law. Is that correct? 23 Α. I don't know if I necessarily agree. Mr. Hart put 24 in all caps, "If we wanted to run the RV park," with an 25 exclamation point following that sentence. 26 And I think that right there is, you know, the catalyst 2.7 for us internally to have changed our conversation.

Frankly, again, you know, going down the road and

entertaining his ideas and notions is one part of the job, but maintaining a safe, responsible company that can grow is my part of the job.

- Q. And at this point, the alternatives were being evaluated for the different sites, and it doesn't appear that the requirements required by the eminent domain laws were really being factored into these discussions. Is that correct?
- A. I don't think Mr. Hart was factoring that into the discussion at the time.
 - Q. Were you factoring it at the time, Mr. Pinoli?
- A. It is certainly something I was evaluating, as I had weeded out the other properties we talked about yesterday in comparison to the subject property.

You know, I was evaluating what property would be for the best interest of the railroad's ability to grow, and that didn't create harm.

- Q. And were you evaluating at this point the impact that taking Mr. Meyer's property may have on him?
- A. It's certainly something that I don't take lightly. And given that it is a bare piece of property, and was a bare piece of property without any improvements, that was the factor for making the decision.
- Q. Do you mean when Mr. Hart was making this map and coming up with these improvements that he has referenced on here, that he was factoring in whether or not the taking of this property and the use of the Meyer property for this purpose would have the least impact on Mr. Meyer?

see where the email starts.

I don't think Mr. Hart was factoring that in when 1 Α. 2 he was doing that sketch. 3 Do you think he is factoring in whether or not Q. 4 this use of the property was for the greatest public good? 5 Α. I don't think Mr. Hart was factoring that in at 6 the time he did his sketch, either. 7 Q. And at the time that these emails were discussed, 8 were those issues that you were factoring in? 9 Α. Can can you repeat the question. 10 0. Were you factoring in what would be for the greatest public good when these emails were going out? 11 I am looking for ways to efficiently grow the 12 Α. 13 organization, and ways to get more trucks off of the highway, 14 and put rail back to an effective use. 15 So your main focus was how to effectively Q. 16 efficiently operate your railroad. Is that correct? 17 It's what drives me every day. 18 If you go to the same Exhibit 33, it would be Q. 19 Exhibit 33-47 and Exhibit 33-46? 20 33-46 and 47. Α. Okay. 21 Would it be correct to say that those are Q. Yeah. 22 maps that were put together by Mr. Hart at the same time for 23 the KOA property? 24 Α. This is consistent with the previous map 25 that we just viewed. So, yes, I would say that this was 26 something Mr. Hart did. 27 I think if you go to page 33-44, you can 0.

Α. Thank you. 1 Yes. 2 Yeah. And it's an email from Mike Hart to Robert 0. 3 Pinoli, Jeff Miller, Chris Hart, and Torgny Nillson, dated 4 July 19, 2020. And the subject is KOA or Meyer? Do you recall receiving this email? 6 Α. Yes. 7 And this -- this -- this email was sent in 0. 8 conjunction with the other email -- would it be correct to 9 say? -- to make a potential evaluation of the options for the 10 KOA and the Meyer properties? 11 Α. That's correct. 12 And if you look at Exhibit 33-46. That's the map. 0. 13 Α. Yes. 14 0. It looks like it states that -- there is the 15 primary campground. It reflects the entrance and access 16 bridge, possible parking, possible station. 17 And -- and then there is a portion that says, "Generates 28K per month." Is that right? Do I see that? 18 19 Α. I do. 20 What does that refer to? 0. 21 The generates 28K? Α. 22 Q. Yeah. 2.3 Α. As I recall, it refers to their long-term rentals. 24 0. Okay. And are those like -- what are those? 25 Those are long-term rental of what? 26 Α. Folks with RVs who may be working as traveling 2.7 nurses, or in the county on more than just a transient basis, 28 but are here semi-permanently.

2.8

Q.

1 Okay. It doesn't appear that this map reflects Q. 2 that parcel to the north that we discussed, or you mentioned 3 earlier in that other map of the KOA. Is that correct? Actually, a portion of it does, because I see 4 Α. 5 where it is denoted as, like, behind the trees, and the tip of the reservoir pond, if you will, right behind it. 6 7 The red line, the dark red line at the north there is a 8 small circle, and it does include a portion of that. 9 Okay. All right. Thank you. 0. So in this map, there is no reference to a transloading 10 11 area. Is that right? 12 Α. There is no reference to a transloading area in 13 this map. And there is no reference to a maintenance 14 Q. facility? 15 16 Α. There is no reference to a maintenance facility for the train. 17 And there is no reference to a pit, correct? 18 Q. 19 Α. There is no reference to a pit. 20 Q. And is there a reference to a wye on here? 21 There is no reference to a wye. Α. 22 As far as you know, is this the only -- are these 0. maps -- the maps that are referenced on 43 -- or, excuse me, 23 24 33-46, 33-47, and 33-49, the ones we discussed earlier, are 25 those the only maps that were in place prior to the filing of 26 the -- of the eminent domain lawsuit? 27 Are those the only maps. Α.

Let me rephrase that.

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Are those references made to the only site maps that were prepared by Mendocino Railway prior to the -- to the eminent domain lawsuit that was filed against John Meyer? I believe in our complaint there is a map that Α. described the property. And as a result, then, the answer would be no, because there would have been another map prepared as attached to the complaint. 0. Okay. So --THE COURT: So, Mr. Johnson, these exhibits, 46 and 47, are you calling them maps? Or are they really conceptual drawings? BY MR. JOHNSON: 0. That's a good point, Your Honor. I may have used the wrong term. So as far as my question, let me restate my question. As far as -- let's go with -- with Exhibit 33-49, which is the map of the Meyer property, correct? Yes. I have that here. Α. As far as you know, is that the only conceptual Q. drawing that was in place for the Meyer property that was prepared by Mendocino Railway as of the date of the filing of the complaint against Mr. Meyer? I do believe that it was. I can't be certain that there wasn't something else. But if there were, we would have produced it.

And as far as the map 33-46, are you -- are you aware, or

Okay. Thank you.

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prepared by Mendocino Railway as it relates to the potential
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 2
    use of the KOA property?
 3
                Again, I can't be certain. But based on what we
          Α.
 4
    have produced, yes.
 5
          Q.
                Okay.
                       Thank you.
 6
                I'd like -- we can go back now to my binder here,
    the blue binder.
 7
 8
         Thank you. If you go to page 163, Exhibit D --
 9
                MR. BLOCK: We're going back to the defendant's
10
    exhibits?
11
    BY MR. JOHNSON:
12
          Q.
                      Are you on that page, Mr. Pinoli?
                Yes.
13
          Α.
                Yes, I am.
14
          0.
                Can you look at that email, dated July 20th, from
15
    you?
16
          Α.
                Okay.
17
                Read that for a second.
          0.
18
          Α.
                       I have read that email.
                Okay.
19
                So it appears under the KOA, if you were going to
          Q.
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    access the KOA campground -- and the way it is referenced in
21
   Exhibit 33-46, it would be necessary to go on someone else's
22
               Is that right?
   property.
23
                Yeah.
                       I contemplate in this email the same thing
24
    I referenced earlier, and that is the ingress and egress
25
   making it quite difficult.
26
         And in the email, I mention the ingress through someone
27
    else's property is going to be tricky.
28
          Q.
                       And so it also references that, "If you
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1 eliminated the petting zoo, you could get more parking there." 2 "And we could also make that a path to boarding the train." 3 4 "We also gain some extra land by removing the land next 5 to the property to us." 6 "We can convert the office area to our depo, and fix up 7 the outside. The parallel covered platform along the outside 8 would suffice nicely." 9 It states additional comments below. Did you write that? 10 T did. Α. 11 0. Why didn't you reference anything relating to the 12 need for property for freight in that email where you're discussing how you may change the use of that KOA property? 13 14 Α. Again, in the spirit of the ongoing conversation 15 between Mr. Hart and the group and what I had testified to 16 yesterday, Mr. Hart sometimes likes to go down these roads, 17 and to have these tangential conversations. 18 They're not always fun. They're not always enjoyable, but, at the end of the day, this conversation and this 19 20 discussion with him was in the continued spirit of the 21 existing thread that was taking place. 22 So would it be correct to say you didn't bring up 23 those issues because you didn't want to hurt Mr. Hart's 24 feelings? 25 I'm not generally worried about hurting Mr. Hart's feelings. I'm respectful. I'm not going to go out 26 27 of my way to do that.

But, you know, it was probably a conversation -- well, it

was a conversation that he and I had via either phone or in person, you know, after the fact that --

- Q. So it's your testimony, then, that there were discussions for seven months that went on relating to freight and transloading between the time frame of January 2020 and July 2020, but none of these discussions are in these emails. Is that right?
- A. Yeah. The -- the -- you know, the operation of running our business for seven months during this period was more than just this email exchange between Mr. Hart and myself.
- Q. Did you think it might be appropriate, given the situation, to come up with your own plan, which might include a conceptual drawing, transloading, freight, and other valued things, like pits and wyes, that you have discussed for the last couple days as being very important?

Did you think it would be helpful to reconstruct your own drawing that you could present to Mr. Hart?

- A. Not necessarily. It goes to -- to what I testified earlier, in that we often have discussions, or business plans, or something that don't always follow suit.
- Q. So if you go to page 160 -- well, actually, if you go to page 162 -- or, excuse me, 161 is the start of the email.

It's an email dated July 20, 2020, at 9:40. It's from Mike Hart to you. It just says, "Thanks. Robert."

- A. I'm there.
- Q. Okay. If you want to take a look at this?

1	A. Okay.
2	Q. All right. If you go to the top of page 162, the
3	email states, "It appears they spent" and this is in
4	relation to the KOA.
5	"It appears they spent 3.5 million for cash flows. I
6	can't see paying them anywhere near their original purchase
7	price in the current market conditions, then."
8	"Jeff, am I missing something here? This looks to me
9	like a business that is going to be in foreclosure soon."
10	That is in bold print. "If we got it in foreclosure, it
11	might make more sense."
12	"It seems SBMC has a first for 230,000. At that price,
13	it would be a wash, versus the Meyer property. 400,000
14	purchase, plus 2 million for the sites."
15	"Although, with Meyer, we do get to configure it
16	logically for our infrastructure, or all infrastructure is
17	new."
18	So it appears in this email Mr. Hart has made a decision
19	or has the thought that the KOA property is overpriced. Is
20	that correct?
21	A. That is his thought.
22	Q. Yes, that's correct?
23	A. Yes.
24	Q. And is that one of the main reasons why the KOA
25	property was not purchased or taken, because the price would
26	be too high?
27	A. I think they're again, going back to the
28	testimony that I've given, consistent with the growth of our

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business, there are several factors with respect to the KOA property that simply do not work, the barriers, the lack of space, and the fact there are ingress and egress issues.

Additionally, we are not in the business of running a campground. We don't have a campground, and our business is a railroad. So this would be something completely out of the box for us.

- Q. So what you just described are the main factors that went into the decision for the site?
- A. The ingress, egress, natural barriers, and the lack of space.
 - Q. So it didn't have to do with the economics?
 - Not from my standpoint.
 - Q. What about from Mendocino Railway's?
 - A. Not from Mendocino Railway's standpoint.
- Q. So the resources that were spent in evaluating the KOA property and it's financials effectively was a waste of resources? Would that be a correct statement?

Because the financial issues were not even relevant. Is that correct?

- A. I would say that it was a waste of resources, yes.
- Q. If you look at page 161, there is an email from Mike Hart, dated July 20, 2020. Do you want to read that?
 - A. Okay.
- Q. In that email, it appears that Mr. Hart went and found a comparable property to the KOA property in Kentucky which had 91 spaces, versus the KOA's 93 spaces.

And he did an analysis of the valuation for the property

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in Kentucky. Is that correct?

- A. Based on this email, that is correct.
- Q. So he was actually looking at potential comparable properties around the country similar to KOA at that time. Is that correct?
- A. Well, he may have been looking at what he considered to be comparable properties, but I think anyone will tell you that the real estate properties in California as compared to the real estate properties in any other state are night and day.
- Q. At this time, he was looking for comparables for a railroad yard. Is that right?
 - A. Based on the emails, that would be correct.
- Q. If you go to the next page, page 160, there is an email from yourself that looks like it is entitled, "To Mike."

And it states in the first paragraph, "I scheduled a follow-up call with John this morning."

"He is no longer interested in selling this property. He is intent on wanting to develop it and sell it off, getting more money down the road."

Is that true?

- A. What you just read is correct. That's what's on the paper in front of me.
- Q. And is that a common statement of John Meyer's on or around July 21st?
- A. That's consistent with what I remember our conversation to be.
 - Q. And then below, it looks like in the third

paragraph, it said, "He said he just purchased a small parcel 1 2 next door. I think it is the parcel with the blue house that 3 is a modular home." "Since he has done this, he'd like just about six acres, 4 5 leaving 14 acres for sale at 900,000. Otherwise, he wants one-and-a-half million. And we take it all, and he walks 6 7 away." 8 Is that what Mr. Meyer told you? 9 Α. I believe that that's what he told me. I would 10 have summarized it as a follow-up, so that seems consistent with what he said. 11 12 And so that was written on July 21st at 11:50 a.m. 0. 13 And on July 21st, on the next page, page 159, at the bottom, 14 Mike Hart wrote an email on July 21st at 12:17 p.m., which is 15 27 minutes later. It says, "ED works." ED refers to eminent domain? 16 17 Α. I believe so. So as soon as Mr. Meyer said that he wasn't going 18 0. 19 to sell at a price that you thought was reasonable, Mr. Hart 20 recommended eminent domain. Is that correct? 21 Α. His comments were, "ED works." 22 0. I'm sorry. Can you say that again? 23 Α. His comment was, "ED works." That's eminent domain works? 24 0. 25 Α. Yes, sir. And that -- that, "ED works," comment was written 26 0. 2.7 on July 21st. And the maps that we were discussing earlier,

those were in emails from July 19, 2020.

So the reference to eminent domain was made two days 1 2 after these maps were prepared. Is that correct? 3 Α. Yes. 4 And, then, if you look, there's an email written Q. 5 seven minutes later from you at 12:24 p.m. that says, "Yes. ED works, but we have yet to see it work." 6 7 Why did you say that? 8 Α. Well, at the time, Mendocino Railway hadn't engaged in an eminent domain matter. 10 0. You hadn't filed any eminent domain matter at this 11 time? 12 Α. I'm not certain of the date where we acquired a 13 piece of property via eminent domain action where a 14 stipulation was established as it relates to Alder Street in 15 Fort Bragg. 16 I don't recall that date offhand, so I don't know if it 1.7 was before or after. 18 Mendocino Railway filed an eminent domain action 19 in Fort Bragg. Is that correct? 20 Α. That is correct. 21 And didn't it file two eminent domain actions? 0. 22 Not counting Mr. Meyer's eminent domain action, it Α. 23 did. 24 And you don't know when those were filed? 0. 25 The eminent domain action for Georgia Pacific was Α. 26 filed in 2021. That I do know. 27 And I believe that the eminent domain action for Alder Street was in 2021, but later in the year. 28

Α.

So at that particular time, Mendocino Railway is 1 2 actively involved in eminent domain actions or analyses. 3 that correct? Α. Well, I don't think, "Yes. ED works, but we have 4 5 yet to see it work was on the 21st of July. 6 0. Okav. So if you got to see it work -- you don't 7 know whether or not the other actions have been filed or resolved before this or after it. Do you know? 8 9 Α. The other actions are unresolved matters, and it 10 is before the state today. 11 Okay. So if you look at the -- if you look at the Q. 12 next page, page 158, on the bottom, there is an email from 13 Mike Hart, dated July 21, 2020, at 12:26. That's two minutes 14 after your email. And it states, "Yup. Test case." 15 Does -- does the Mendocino Railway consider this Meyer 16 litigation a test case? 17 Well, I think Mr. Hart -- what Mr. Hart is 18 referring to -- again, I can't speak for him. 19 But at this point in time, the Mendocino Railway had not 20 engaged in an action of eminent domain, so his response was 21 perhaps in response to my comment of our not seeing it work. 22 Okay. So at that particular time is it a 23 potential that Mr. Hart saw this as a test case. Is that 24 correct? 25 Α. That's a potential. 26 Does Mendocino Railway consider this a test case 0. 27 now?

I don't think Mendocino Railway considers this a

test case.

2.5

- Q. Do you think it is appropriate to sue Mr. Meyer and make him spend his hard-earned money on a test case for eminent domain as far as it applies to Mendocino Railway?
- A. As I just indicated, I don't think this is a test case. So the intent at the present time isn't for Mr. Meyer to spend his money for Mendocino Railway to have a test case.
- Q. Is this the first eminent domain case that Mendocino Railway has taken all the way to trial?
- A. This is the first eminent domain case that Mendocino Railway has taken all the way to trial. That is correct.
- Q. Okay. So this -- go to page 158. The email above the one we just mentioned is an email dated July 21, 2020, at 12:41 from you, which is 15 minutes after the last email.

It says, "Possible. But that was Remco and Line. The problem is it isn't an easy process. The work is insanely intense. We could talk to Glenn Block about this one too."

What is the reference being made there to Remco and Line?

- A. The Remco property that we had previously identified prior to identifying the subject property.
- Q. So why are you making a reference to Remco there? Do you know?
- A. Well, the work that we had done to start the process, we had different counsel at the time.

And I had just met Mr. Block, or was introduced to Mr. Block, so, as a result, it was an opportunity for us to have that conversation with him.

So were you -- was that in reference to the 1 2 fact that you were potentially thinking about doing an eminent 3 domain action for the Remco property? And we covered that yesterday in my 4 Α. Yes. 5 testimony. 6 Q. Okay. And, then, the Line -- that's Line Redwood 7 -- is that correct? -- the reference to Line? 8 That is correct. Α. And were you thinking about doing an eminent 9 Q. domain case as it relates to the Redwood property? 10 11 For the expansion of the right-of-way in certain areas. That is correct. 12 13 So given the -- given the -- the fact that you're Q. potentially analyzing in this time frame eminent domain 14 15 actions involving the two in Fort Bragg, Mr. Meyer's property, Remco, and Line, that's potentially five different parcels 16 that you were thinking about, or at least analyzing whether or 17 not you should proceed with eminent domain against. 18 19 correct? In this time period that is not correct. 20 Α. 21 was a matter that we addressed I believe in 2015. 22 So within approximately that five-year time 0. Okay. period you had analyzed from 2015. In that time frame, you 23 had analyzed taking up to five parcels through eminent domain. 24 Is that right? 25 26 We did have that analysis. Α. 27 So it appears that the eminent domain process is 0.

seen as a process for -- is a business process -- is that

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correct? -- for Mendocino Railway? That they use that process to expand their business regularly?

A. I wouldn't say that they used that process regularly when they acquired the assets of the then California Railroad.

So in a 20-year period of time, to contemplate it for five different opportunities is in an effort for Mendocino Railway to grow its business.

The process of eminent domain for Mendocino Railway is not inconsistent with the entities that use eminent domain as a tool to grow their business to benefit the public in a better way.

- Q. Okay. So when you were -- would it be correct to say that when you were doing this eminent domain analysis, you were looking out for the public use? Is that right?
- A. Again, yes. And as I have testified before, the railroad was built to serve its counties 137 years ago.

My job and my goal from day one has been to make this railroad a stronger railroad that can be utilized by the community for another 137 years.

Q. Okay. And at this particular time of July 21, 2020, when the reference is, "We could talk to Glen Block about this one too," at that particular time, would it be correct to say that the Mendocino Railway had decided to no longer pursue the KOA campground?

It had made its decision to pursue the Meyer property. Is that right?

A. I don't want to commit to saying yes to that,

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Α.

because there may be a subsequent email where the KOA item may 1 2 have been revisited. 3 But, you know, we were -- we were focused, or more 4 focused, I should say, and headed in a perhaps clearer 5 direction. 6 0. Okay. And, then, if you look at the email above that, on page 158 there is an email from Mike Hart from 7 8 July 21, 2020, at 12:46 p.m., just five minutes later than this previous email. 10 It says, "First, we should decide if we want to proceed 11 on this site. Then we can decide how hard to push. Michael 12 G. Hart." 13 Is that a reference to the Meyer site, do you believe? 14 You know, I simply -- it appears to be, but I'm 15 not going to speculate yes or no. 16 Okay. Do you know what he means when he says, 17 "Then we can decide how hard to push"? 18 Α. I don't. 19 All right. And then the next email above, from Q. 20 12:49 on July 21, 2020, is from you. 21 And it states, "Agreed. We need the financial analysis 22 on the KOA to be competed first." Is that right? 23 Α. That's what I -- yes. That's what the email Yes. 24 says. So at that particular time, the focus on the KOA 25 Q. 26 purchase was -- basically, the only thing left to do was to

analyze the financials. Is that right?

Based on this email, yes, it seems like that was

Superior Court of the State of California County of Mendocino

the last item to close the loop, if you will. 1 It doesn't look like this -- at that particular 2 3 time you were analyzing whether or not to change the -- what's the term we used for the map? The map that was referenced, or the --5 The illustration. 6 Α. 7 The illustration? 0. 8 The drawing. Α. 9 0. The drawing. Yeah. I don't believe so. 10 Α. Conceptional drawing. Okay. 11 0. And if you go to the page 157, at the bottom there is an 12 email from July 21, 2020, at 1:06 p.m. from Mr. Hart, Mike 13 14 Hart. And it says, "You need to be sure, as this is a huge 15 16 Do you know what he is referring to as a huge 17 project? 18 Α. I don't. 19 Ο. Okay. If you go to the email that starts on page 2.0 155, this is an email dated July 24, 2020, from Mike Hart. 21 Α. Okay. Or, actually, down below, actually, I think is an 22 email. I went to the top. It should be an email below. 2.3 On the middle of page 155, it's an email from Jeff 2.4 25 Miller. And it said, "Sorry KOA took too long, but I wanted 26 some input from a colleague who has some experience in this 2.7 area." "Below, and attached is a detailed financial model." And 28

then it goes through significant financial analysis -- is that 1 correct? -- this email? 2 3 Α. Yes. 4 0. And -- and it appears that the Mendocino Railway 5 is then waiting to make a decision about the KOA campground, was waiting to analyze the financials. 6 7 And with this email and the documents that were attached, which we don't have here, would that represent the financial 9 analysis that was done by Jeff Miller? 10 Α. Yes. 11 Q. For the KOA? Is that right? 12 Α. Yes. If you go to the page 156, there is -- at the top, 13 0. 14 it says Analysis of Dates in bold. 15 And then if you go down to that section, at the second 16 bullet point from the bottom it says, "This property allows 17 you to use a portion of 1033 exchange, which allows us to keep 18 a large portion of the NOL for future use." 19 The reference to a 1033 exchange, that is an exchange of 20 property that occurs through a condemnation or eminent domain

- 22 A. That's correct.
 - Q. And what is an NOL?
- A. Is it -- where do you see N OL? Oh, I'm sorry.
- 25 | The second-to-the-last bullet point?

Is that right?

26 Q. Yeah.

action.

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- 27 A. I'm not familiar with that.
 - Q. Okay. So it's common for people to do a 1033

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exchange when property is taken through eminent domain. Is that right?

- A. Yes. You have the ability to do a 1033.
- Q. So when there was earlier discussion about Mr. Meyer doing a 1033 exchange, I mean, that would be a common practice, potentially?
- A. Mr. Meyer's conversation with me was a 1031 exchange.
- Q. Okay. If the you look at the bottom of page 156, on the fourth bullet point up, it says, "Eli's view is that COVID is and will drive more people to camping. RV sales are way up, and it is a way to travel and social distance."

Was -- was that part of the analysis, financial analysis that was made of the KOA campground?

- A. It appears that when Mr. Miller reached out to a friend of his who specialized in campground or resort-style operations, that this was something that he gave him as feedback.
- It's also important to note that the entire time through COVID, Mendocino Railway did not start a campground despite their popularity.
- Q. If you look above that, on that same paragraph there above that there is -- there is one area that doesn't have a bullet point, that says Eli's Comments and Business Model. Do you see that?
 - A. How many bullet points up above?
- Q. Well, it's -- there's a point where it doesn't have a bullet point.

- 1 Α. Oh, ves. Eli's comment. Yes. Thank you. 2 Q. And then if you go down through it to the third 3 bullet point, it talks about mobile home parks selling for cap rates between 7 and 10 percent, and RV park cap rates of 6 to 5 11 percent. 6 So this analysis was focusing on the cap rates for this type of park. 7 Is that correct? 8 Well, this -- the KOA is not a mobile home park. Α. 9 So I think that what Mr. Miller was doing was restating Eli's 10 comments to him. 11 And it appears that this analysis that was Q. 12 prepared for the KOA did not seem to factor in any type of 13 financial analysis that may result from the operation of 14 transloading or operation of freight. Is that correct? 15 Α. That is correct. 16 0. It also doesn't seem that the -- as part of this 17 analysis, the KOA was evaluated for the cost of installing a 18 wye, a pit, or a transloading facility is. That correct? 19 Α. That is correct. 20 Q. I would like you to go to the next page, which is 21 page 176. 22 176? Α.
 - A. Okay. Yes.

Yeah.

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Q. This is an email dated August 19, 2020, from Mike Hart to you. It states, "Robert, thank you for connecting me with John Meyer, although, I have to say, I can't imagine how

page. Or it's after 155. 176 is the next email.

Do you see that? I believe it is the next

you put up with the calls you've already had with him." 1 2 "Talking with him was like watching a ground squirrel on crack dropped into a room of walnuts." Do you see that? 3 Α. T do. 4 Did Mr. Hart contact John Meyer? 5 0. 6 Α. He did. Do you recall what the conversation was? 7 0. 8 They were having a conversation about the purchase Α. 9 of his property. So as of August 19th, Mr. Hart had a conversation 10 0. with Mr. Meyer about the purchase? 11 On or about. 12 Α. Why did Mr. Hart state this about John Meyer? 13 0. 14 you know? I don't know. 15 Α. 16 It doesn't seem like a very nice way to treat Ο. 17 somebody that you're trying to do a business deal with. Is 18 that right? 19 I would agree entirely. And, as I stated in my deposition, it is certainly not the opinion of Mendocino 2.0 21 Railway or myself. 22 0. Does Mendocino Railway have contempt for Mr. Meyer in some fashion? 2.3 24 Α. Contempt, as in anger? 25 Q. Yes? 26 No, sir. Α. If you look at this email, at the bottom of the 27 0. second-to-last paragraph, there is a sentence that says, "He 28

did not like eminent domain once explained, and said he didn't want to choose that one." 2 "In short, we should decide if we want to proceed, and 3 4 get an appraisal so we at least know what is fair. We should 5 then write up an offer, and see how he responds." 6 Do you see that? 7 Α. I do. 8 Q. And do you know at that particular point, would it 9 be correct to say that the Mendocino Railway was actively 10 thinking about taking the eminent domain action against 11 Mr. Meyer to obtain his property? Is that correct? 12 Α. Again, I think it was a consideration. And, you 13 know, Mr. Hart's suggestion of an appraisal to see what we 14 know was fair is an appropriate step. 15 I have one more question, and then we can take a 0. 16 break if you would like. 17 If you look at page 175, it's an email from Mike Hart to 18 you and to others, dated August 20, 2020. 19 It says, "Yeah. This guy was a bit on the fringe. 2.0 request Glenn to get an appraisal." That's a reference to 21 Glenn Block?

A. Yes, sir.

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- Q. And that would be an appraisal, potentially, for an eminent domain action. Is that right?
 - A. Potentially.
- Q. Do you know what Mr. Hart was referring to when he said that this guy was a bit on the fringe?
 - A. I don't.

And I guess there's an email below that was from 1 2 you that I skipped from August 20th, at 8:39 a.m. It's from 3 you. You said, "Now you see the wild goose chases you send me 4 5 on sometimes," with a happy face. What is that referring to? 6 Well, some of my conversations with Mr. Meyer were 7 very disjointed. 8 But I do take exception to the fact that he was disrespected in the way that we just covered during the 10 testimony earlier. And, you know, it was a gentle nod to 11 Mr. Hart that, look, sometimes for as impatient as you can be, 12 you see what, you know -- see sometimes the conversations I 13 have to have. 14 And when you're impatient about how long it may take to 15 get back to you on something, sometimes these types of 16 conversations take a long time, and they take finesse. 17 So on the next -- the next sentence in that email, you said, "Ha, ha," on summing up John Meyer." What's that 18 19 referring to? 20 I think that it was, again, a nod to, you know, Α. 21 what Mr. Hart had previously stated. 22 So it seems like you and Hart are not showing much 23 respect for Mr. Meyer -- is that correct? -- in these emails? 24 I wouldn't say that. I think that is a complete 25 mischaracterization. 26 0. The next email says, "I think an appraisal makes 2.7 sense. Should be pretty easy to do, given the property can be

seen from Highway 20." Do you see that?

1	A. I do.
2	Q. So it was your opinion at that time on August 20th
3	that Mr. Block should obtain an appraisal for eminent domain.
4	Is that correct?
5	A. I think what I said is that having an appraisal
6	makes sense, and that was the extent of what I said.
7	Q. Okay. So so you said that. But it looks like
8	in the next email, Mr. Hart referenced Glenn Block, right?
9	A. Yes.
10	Q. So Glenn Block probably wouldn't have been brought
11	into the conversation if you were just going to obtain an
12	appraisal; you could have done that yourselves.
13	It was referenced that Mr. Block should obtain an
14	appraisal, and that was specifically for eminent domain
15	purposes. Is that correct?
16	A. Well, again, it is something that we had
17	contemplated previously in previous emails. And if we were
18	going to go down this path, it seemed best to engage Mr. Block
19	earlier, rather than later.
20	Q. Okay. One more question.
21	It appears that Mr. Block was brought into the
22	conversation after the decision was made on what site was to
23	be obtained. Is that correct?
24	A. Well, in and around this time, we just reviewed an
25	email that talked about that was from Mr. Miller doing a
26	financial analysis.
27	It was the 19th of I'm sorry, no. It wasn't the 19th.
28	It was the 24th of July. So we had I'm sorry. Would you

1 restate your question, please, or repeat it? 2 Yeah. You obtained the financials for the KOA, right? 3 That's correct. 4 After you obtained the financials for the KOA and 5 Q. reviewed them, at that particular time, did the Mendocino 6 7 Railway determine that they did not want to pursue the KOA any longer? 8 9 Α. Yes. So after that was, the financials were obtained 10 Q. and reviewed, then, at that particular time, the focus became 11 12 Mr. Meyer's property. Is that correct? That's correct. 13 Α. 14 Q. And then Mr. Meyer told Mendocino Railway that he 15 didn't want to purchase or sell the property. And Mr. Mike 16 Hart spoke with him, and said he looked like a squirrel on 17 crack. And at that particular time thereafter, the discussion 18 went to let's contact Mr. Block. Is that correct? 19 That's what the email thread represents, yes. 20 Α. 21 So it appears that the Meyer property -- it was decided that the Meyer property would be the property to be 22 pursued prior to bringing on Mr. Block. 23 Is that correct? 24 I think that that is a fair analysis. Α. All right. Thank you. Would you like to 25 Ο. Okav. take a break now? 26 27 THE COURT: Let's go ahead and recess for the 28 lunch break. Off the record. (Recess)

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THE COURT:
                        Back on the record. Mr. Johnson?
 1
 2
                     CROSS-EXAMINATION (CONT.):
 3
    BY MR. JOHNSON:
 4
          Q.
                Yes.
                      Thank you.
 5
         Mr. Pinoli, we were looking at Exhibit D, and the page we
 6
    were on was on page 175. If you could turn to that page?
 7
          Α.
                Okay. I am there.
 8
          0.
                Okay. If -- if you look at page 175, there is an
    email. It's from Jeff Miller, dated August 20, 2020, at
10
    11:03 a.m.
         Can you take a look at that, please?
11
                THE COURT: I'm sorry. Which number?
12
13
                MR. JOHNSON: It's page 175.
14
                THE COURT: Got it. Thank you.
15
    BY MR. JOHNSON:
16
          0.
                You're welcome.
17
          Α.
                And, Mr. Johnson, that was the August 20th email
18
    at 10:43.
19
          0.
                No. At 11:03.
20
                Okay. Yes. Thank you.
          Α.
21
                Have you read that?
          0.
22
                Yes, sir.
          Α.
23
                So in that first line, he states, "Wow, what a
          0.
24
    discussion." Do you know what he is referring to? Is he
25
    referring to the email discussion that was just had?
          Α.
26
                I believe so.
2.7
                And then the next sentence said, "I did speak with
          0.
28
    Robert in more detail on the KOA, and he felt there would be
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2.0

no way to split the property for a train depo and parking.

"The goal would be to separate the depo from the KOA so we could later sell the KOA. Once maintained with the Skunk, we could get the depo land for free; however, without the ability to split the property, it would not be possible."

And my question to you is there is a reference to Robert. Is that to you?

- A. I believe so, yes. There is no other Robert.
- Q. And -- and did you evaluate whether or not the KOA property could be divided into two parcels, legal parcels?
- A. I don't know if I evaluated it from the standpoint if the KOA could be divided into two legal parcels.

It was more of was there a way to divide the property, given the constraints that it had to serve the needs, based on the discussion that was being had.

- Q. Okay. So did you -- you analyzed it based on the fact that -- the facts represented in this email that there was a potential -- or you evaluated whether there was a potential to obtain -- purchase the whole property and then sell off the KOA and retain a certain portion of the property for your depo. Is that right?
 - A. It was one of the considerations.
- Q. And then if you look at the next paragraph, it states, "I did see that one of comments of John Meyer was an income stream."

"I am not sure if that was rambling or real, but it could lower the price and pay him over some time for the remainder."

"Our 1033 exchange will be land plus our construction

Α.

1 costs and needs to be under the SNR entity." 2 The SNR entity is Sierra Norther Railroad? 3 Α. Yes. 4 0. And can you explain what that statement means, if 5 you know? 6 I'm not sure that I do know. Α. 7 Okay. And if you look at the -- if you look at 0. the email above, there is an email above dated August 20, 2020, at 11:12. And it's from Mike Hart. It states, "Sounds like we need to get the appraisal and 10 just do a flat 1033 through SNR." Is that right? 11 12 Α. That's what that email says. 13 And so is that -- is that related to potentially 0. 14 getting an appraisal to -- to complete an eminent domain 15 taking of Mr. Meyer's property? 16 Mr. Hart doesn't describe it beyond that one line 17 that you read, so it -- it's a bit hard to surmise. 18 So you don't know what that means? 19 I don't, sir. Α. If you look at the email up above -- it looks like 20 0. 21 a portion of it was blocked out, but it's an email to Glenn 22 Block, and it appears to be from Mike Hart. Do you see that? 23 T do. Α. 2.4 All right. And is it your understanding that with Q. 25 that email, Mr. Hart contacted Glenn Block to begin the eminent domain process of taking -- of potentially taking 26 27 Mr. Meyer's property? 28

I'm unable to tell you what that email says,

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because it is blacked out. I cannot read it.
 1
 2
                Do you know if Mr. Mike Hart contacted Glenn Block
 3
    to start the eminent domain process?
 4
                THE COURT:
                            Counsel, I think that's kind of
 5
    getting into the attorney/client privilege, asking him for
    things he might have to disclose.
 6
    BY MR. JOHNSON:
 8
          0.
                That's fine. Mr. Pinoli, will you flip to Exhibit
 9
    E?
10
          Α.
                Okay.
11
                So are you familiar with this document?
          0.
12
          Α.
                Yes.
13
                This is a document that appears to be from Ward
          Ο.
14
    Levy Appraisal Group, Inc., written from Ryan C. Ward to John
15
    Meyer. Is that correct?
16
          Α.
                That is correct.
17
          0.
                And it's dated September 1st, 2020. Is that
18
    correct?
19
          Α.
                It is.
20
                And if you look at the fist paragraph, it states,
          0.
21
    "The Mendocino Railway is considering the acquisition of your
22
    property for its railroad operations."
23
         "We have been hired by the California Eminent Domain Law
24
    Group on behalf of the Mendocino Railway to appraise your
25
    property at 1401 Highway 20 in Willits, California," and then
2.6
    it has the assess or parcel number.
27
         Is this the letter that was sent out on behalf of the
28
    Mendocino Railway to John Meyer to effectively begin the
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2.4

process of potentially taking his property through eminent domain?

- A. I believe there was an official letter that came from Mendocino Railway on Mendocino Railway's letterhead, and this would be -- would have been a supplement letter to this.
- Q. So Mendocino Railway would have sent out a letter to Mr. Meyer before this supplemental letter?
 - A. I believe so, but I would need to verify that.
- Q. Okay. So this letter -- if we go back to Exhibit D, the last email we were looking at was on page 175, and it was dated August 20, 2020.

And so this letter from Ward Levy Appraisal Group, Exhibit E, was sent out approximately 10 days after the last email. Is that correct?

- A. Yes.
- Q. So it looks like after -- after this discussion we've reviewed in the emails, Mendocino Railway took action relatively quickly to start the eminent domain process. Is that right?
 - A. That would be a correct timeline.
- Q. Okay. So, now, we went through these emails that were provided in your discovery responses during this case, and throughout these email discussions and the evaluation of the parcels that were being considered for your project, I did not see any reference to a transload facility, did you?

Or do you recall seeing anything in these emails relating to that?

A. In the emails we have reviewed? No. I don't

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recall that.
 2
          Q.
                Do you recall seeing any references to freight in
 3
    any of these emails in Exhibit D that we have reviewed?
                Well, I see reference to car storage, and that is
 4
          Α.
 5
    indicative of a freight operation.
 6
                Okay. Besides that reference, do you recall
          Q.
 7
    seeing any reference specifically to the word freight?
 8
          Α.
                I don't believe so.
 9
                In those emails that we have reviewed in Exhibit
          0.
    D, did you see any reference made to a wye -- is it discourse?
10
    What is it called?
11
12
          Α.
                A wye track?
13
          0.
                A wye track?
14
          Α.
                I don't believe so.
15
                MR. JOHNSON: The -- I filed a supplemental
16
    request for judicial notice. I'd like to get that, if
17
    possible.
               Do you have a copy of that, Your Honor?
18
                THE COURT: Do I?
19
                MR. JOHNSON: I think I gave you one. It's just a
20
    few of the statutes.
21
                            It was filed on Tuesday.
                THE CLERK:
22
                THE COURT:
                            Oh, right. I have that.
23
                MR. JOHNSON: When we started the process.
24
                THE CLERK: It's also scanned.
25
                THE COURT: It's also scanned? What day did it
26
    come in?
2.7
                THE CLERK:
                            Tuesday the 23rd.
28
                THE WITNESS:
                              Thank you.
```

```
THE COURT: Okay.
                                   There it is. Okay. Let me
 1
 2
    pull it up.
 3
                MR. JOHNSON: At the same time, I -- just to make
 4
    it easier, we also have a request for judicial notice that I
 5
    filed on August 19th. And I'm going to provide that to the
    witness as well of statutes and cases.
 7
                MR. BLOCK: It's not just statutes.
 8
                MR. JOHNSON:
                              There's cases as well. Would you
 9
    like a copy?
10
                THE COURT:
                            Thank you.
11
                            The supplemental was 124003012360, I
                MR. BLOCK:
12
    think.
13
         Mr. Johnson, to clarify, the supplemental request for
14
    judicial notice was Code of Civil Procedure 1250.360 and Code
15
    of Civil Procedure 1250.370?
16
         As to the statutes Your Honor, we have no objection.
17
    -- we also filed a request for judicial notice regarding a
18
    variety of statutes.
19
         The statutes that we presented all have the legislative
20
    committee comment. That's the only reason we served the ones
21
    that we served, so that additional information is there.
         I can address the cases, if you would like.
22
23
                MR. JOHNSON: Well, I'll address them.
24
    when I get there, we can do it.
25
                MR. BLOCK: Fair enough.
26
                THE COURT:
                            I don't know that you folks need to
27
    even --
28
                MR. JOHNSON:
                              I mean, a lot of this stuff was put
```

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together for your purpose so that you don't need to go hunt
 1
 2
    that.
 3
                THE COURT:
                            Exactly. I don't think they need to
 4
    be addressed until closing arguments or briefs.
 5
                MR. BLOCK:
                            The defendant's request for judicial
 6
    notice only had one of three PUC decisions, and things like
 7
    that.
 8
                THE COURT: When you do your closing briefs, you
 9
    can do all the law you want.
10
                MR. JOHNSON:
                              Thank you.
                                          Okay.
11
                MR. BLOCK: Are you sure all we want? Really?
12
                MR. JOHNSON: She's not going to read it, but you
13
    can add it.
14
         While we're here, I would move to have Exhibit D entered
15
    into evidence, which is the emails we just discussed.
16
                THE COURT:
                            It may already be in evidence under
17
    plaintiffs, but any objection to D?
18
                MR. BLOCK:
                            No objection, Your Honor.
19
                THE COURT: Exhibit D will be received.
20
         (Respondent's Exhibit D was admitted into evidence.)
21
                MR. JOHNSON: I also move Exhibit E, which is the
22
    letter from the appraiser.
23
                MR. BLOCK: No objection, Your Honor.
2.4
                THE COURT: Exhibit E will be received.
25
         (Respondent's Exhibit E was admitted into evidence.)
26
                MR. JOHNSON: I also move for the exhibits that we
2.7
    discussed, which were the photographs. I believe they were M,
28
   N, O --
```

```
1
                MR. BLOCK:
                            M and N weren't admitted yet.
 2
                THE COURT: And we have O.
 3
                MR. BLOCK: O, P, Q were today. And I have no
 4
    objection to the photos, Your Honor.
 5
                THE COURT: All right. O, P and Q will be
 6
    received.
         (Respondent's Exhibits O, P, and Q were admitted into
 7
 8
    evidence.)
 9
    BY MR. JOHNSON:
10
          0.
                Thank you. And I think that's all the exhibits
    now we've reviewed at least.
11
         Mr. Pinoli, I'll refer you to the supplemental.
12
13
    states -- it's a document called Defendant, John Meyer's
1.4
    Supplemental Request for Judicial Notice. Do you see that?
15
          Α.
                I do.
                       Yes, sir.
16
                All right. And the first -- there's a statute.
          0.
    The first statute is called California Code of Civil Procedure
17
18
    section 1240.030, conditions precedent to exercise of power.
19
         Do you see that?
20
          Α.
                I do.
                Are you familiar with this statute?
21
          Q.
22
                          I don't practice law, so I'm not.
          Α.
23
                Okay. When you -- when you began the evaluation
          0.
24
    of whether or not Mr. Meyer's property should be taken for
25
    eminent domain purposes, did you -- and -- and that's
26
    referenced in the emails that we've reviewed -- at that
27
    particular time, did you review the law for eminent domain,
28
    taking property through eminent domain?
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27

28

Q.

Α. Through discussions with our counsel. 1 2 Q. Okay. But at the time -- at the time that we were 3 discussing these emails, which was between January of 2020 and August of 2020, did you have -- did you, yourself, review any 4 5 of the statutes such as this one that we just reviewed, 6 1240.030 conditions precedent to the exercise of power? 7 Α. I did not. 8 Do you know if Mr. Hart did? 0. 9 I do not know. Α. 10 It was -- it's correct to say that you and Q. Mr. Hart were the ones that were responsible -- as far as 11 Mendocino Railway is concerned, you were the ones that were 12 13 responsible for evaluating the potential taking of the eminent 14 domain property from or taking the Meyer property through 15 eminent domain. Is that right? 16 Α. That is correct. 17 You did not think that it was necessary to review 0. 18 the eminent domain laws at the time that you were making that 19 evaluation of what property to choose? 20 Again, through discussions with counsel that would Α. 21 have happened later. 22 Okay. So that happened after the decision was 23 made to take Mr. Meyer's property? 24 Well, there was no decision that was made, as Α. 25 we've discussed, in any of the exhibits. There was discussion

Okay. Well, wouldn't the September 1st letter at

surrounding it, but there was no -- there's nothing in the

affirmative that says this is what we are going to do.

least from the appraiser be an affirmative step to potentially taking the property of Mr. Meyer through eminent domain?

A. That is correct.

- Q. All right. So by September 1, 2020, a step had been taken officially to potentially take Mr. Meyer's property through eminent domain?
 - A. Sure.
- Q. So have you reviewed these, or anyone in your company reviewed these eminent domain requirements by September 1, 2020?
- A. Again, the conversations that would have taken place would have been with our counsel, and we relied on counsel to provide advice.
- Q. Okay. And so you were -- would it be correct to say that the Mendocino Railway was evaluating the requirements for taking the property through eminent domain prior to September 1, 2020?
 - A. I think that that is a fair assessment.
- Q. Okay. Do you recall ever looking at the section 1240.030, Conditions Precedent to the Exercise of Power?
- A. No. As I have previously stated, sir, I have not -- I have not reviewed it.
- Q. Okay. So would it be correct to say that in making an analysis of what properties that you were interested in taking through eminent domain, or, effectively, Mr. Meyer's property through eminent domain, you would not have factored in these factors, or -- excuse me.
 - You did not factor in 1240.030 into your analysis. Is

that right?

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- A. As I have previously mentioned, I have not read 1240.030. And so it would have been discussions with our counsel, and we relied on our counsel to -- to simply take the information that we were giving them, and for them to respond to us based on our request.
- Q. Okay. So -- so it would be correct, though, to say -- I have no interest in understanding what your discussion is with your counsel, but my question is Mendocino Railway, as far as you know, did not factor in these conditions that are referenced in 1240.030 during its reference of whether or not it was going to take Mr. Meyer's property?
- MR. BLOCK: Objection. Is it the statute that you're asking about, or the substance of the statute? Because I think -- well, I won't say any more. But the question is vague.
- 18 THE COURT: I'm going to sustain that. Will you 19 rephrase it?
- 20 BY MR. JOHNSON:
- Q. Yes. Okay. Let me -- I'll just go through the statute.
 - If you look at the statute 1240.030, it states that the power of eminent domain may be exercised to acquire property for a proposed project only if the following are established, "A, the public interest and necessity require the project."
 - So I'd like to stop there. When you were making the analysis prior to September 1, 2020, of whether or not to take

1 or potentially take Mr. Meyer's property through eminent 2 domain, did Mendocino Railway evaluate whether the public 3 interest and necessity required the project? 4 Α. Yes. 5 It did? And how did it do that? 0. 6 Through discussions with counsel. Α. 7 Did you have any discussions outside of the Q. 8 discussions you had with counsel regarding whether or not the 9 taking was in the public interest and necessity required the 10 project? 11 MR. BLOCK: Objection. Calls for a legal 12 interpretation, or a legal analysis. Objection to the extent 13 the question calls for a legal analysis or a legal conclusion. 14 THE COURT: And I agree. 15 Mr. Johnson, you're asking him to give an opinion here as 16 to whether or not they complied with A, B, and C, and I think 17 that's inappropriate. 18 He spent the last two days testifying as to all of the 19 things that were done to, you know, end up where they are 20 today to file the lawsuit. 21 So I think you need to rephrase so that he's not offering any kind of legal opinion here. He's not been retained as an 22 23 expert to do that. 24 BY MR. JOHNSON: 25 I understand, and my goal here is not to --0. 26 to make or ask Mr. Pinoli to make a legal opinion. My goal here and my question is focused on was there a 27

discussion that was had outside of your counsel's presence

28

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1
    that related to public interest and necessity requiring a
    project prior to September 1st? That's my question.
                THE COURT: A discussion with whom?
 3
                MR. JOHNSON: Anyone at the Mendocino Railway.
 4
                THE COURT: Okay. Do you understand the question?
 5
 6
                THE WITNESS:
                              I do.
 7
                THE COURT: Okay.
                THE WITNESS: I do think that there were some
 8
 9
    internal discussions, again, as we moved forward -- as
10
   Mendocino Railway moved forward.
         And through our discussions with counsel in order to
11
12
    retain Mr. Levy to do the appraisal, there had been
    discussions to determine if the use of the property, the
13
    subject property was going to comply with the requirements.
14
    BY MR. JOHNSON:
15
16
                       But did you see any of those discussions in
          Ο.
                Okav.
17
    the exhibits in Exhibit D, the emails that we reviewed that
18
    related to the public interest and necessity requiring the
19
    project?
                I think Exhibit D ended around the 20th of August,
20
          Α.
    and I don't recall having reviewed any of those.
21
22
                Okay. And if you look at subsection B of section
    -- of statute 1240.030, it states the project is planned or
23
    located in the manner that will be most compatible with the
24
    greatest public good and the least private injury. Do you see
25
26
    that?
2.7
                I do.
          Α.
28
                And I don't want to know anything about
          0.
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discussions that you had with your counsel, but were there 1 2 discussions that were had with the Mendocino Railway officer 3 -- officers, for example, Mr. Hart, yourself, Chris Hart, Jeff 4 Miller? Did you analyze whether or not the project was planned or 5 6 located in the manner that would be most compatible with the 7 greatest public good and the least private injury? MR. BLOCK: Objection. My concern is that 8 9 Mr. Pinoli has testified several times now that he has not 10 read 1240.030. And so the question as framed in the language 11 of 1240.030 is vaque and uncertain. 12 THE COURT: Do you understand the question? THE WITNESS: I understand. I think what 13 Mr. Johnson is getting at, Your Honor --14 THE COURT: Okay. Then, I'm going to allow him to 15 16 answer if you understand the question. 17 THE WITNESS: Thank you. I would say that the 18 discussions that we had with the Mendocino Railway at that 19 point in time at the 1st of September when the letter was sent 20 out were discussions that we also had with our counsel. So any discussions with respect to the taking of the 21 22 subject property were done with counsel, and, as a result of 23 that, our counsel advised us what the criteria were in order 24 to -- or that needed to be considered in moving forward. 2.5 And we needed to make sure that our project was 26 consistent, that it was in the public interest, that there was 27 a necessity required, and that it was located in a manner that

would be most compatible with the greatest public good and

1 least private injury. 2 BY MR. JOHNSON: Okay. 3 0. Thank you. 4 I would like to refer you to Exhibit F. And this 5 document is the complaint and eminent domain that was filed by 6 the Mendocino Railway on December 22, 2020. 7 Α. I am at that document. 8 Ο. And if you -- are you familiar with this 9 document? 10 Α. I am. 11 0. Did you review this document prior to it Okav. 12 being filed? 13 Α. I did. 14 If you look at the second paragraph on Ο. All right. 15 page 2 of this document, it states, 2, the project. And then 16 it has in parentheses, "(The project for which plaintiff seeks 17 to describe the below-described project related to plaintiff's 18 ongoing and future freight and passenger rail operations, and 19 all uses necessary and convenient thereto.)" 20 Is it your understanding that as far as the complaint is 21 concerned, that that is the definition of the project that you 22 were going to construct on or wished to construct on 23 Mr. Meyer's property? 24 Α. A maintenance facility and a freight-based 25 facility, yes. That is -- that is what we said in our 26 complaint. 27 0. All right. Now I'm looking at the complaint. 28 Is there a reason why you weren't more specific in the

BY MR. JOHNSON:

28

1 complaint? 2 Α. I'm not certain that the complaint needed us to 3 contemplate all of the necessary uses. So you're -- you're -- as far as you know, 4 Okay. 5 there was no reason why it wasn't more specific -- is that correct? -- about what you were going to build? 6 I don't believe so. Α. 8 All right. So the project description in the 0. complaint does not specify the specific improvements to be 9 10 constricted on the Meyer property. Is that correct? It does not specify the specific improvements as 11 Α. 12 where he reviewed yesterday in the sight map. 13 Okay. That was the map that was created in June Q. 14 of 2022? That map? 15 Α. That is correct. All right. So the -- the project description in 16 0. 17 the complaint does not make any reference to the campground 18 that was to be constructed on the Meyer property. 19 correct? 20 MR. BLOCK: Objection; misstates the facts, or 21 assumes facts not in evidence. 22 THE COURT: Would you repeat that question? 23 (The record was read.) 2.4 THE COURT: Does it say anything about a 25 campground in the complaint? 26 THE WITNESS: No, Your Honor. 27 THE COURT: All right.

1 Is it -- is it your position that between the --2 the -- the email on July 19th that we reviewed that had the map that showed the KOA campground and the RV park on the 4 Meyer property, the -- what did we call it? I keep 5 forgetting. Are you familiar with what document I'm talking about? 6 7 If you point me to it. Is there a railroad Α. reference that you are looking for? 9 0. Yeah. Let me find it for you. Okay. It's on 10 Exhibit D, and it is page 171. 11 Α. Okay. The map that's -- not the map, but the image, if you will, that's at the top. 12 13 Do you recall discussing that? 0. I previously testified that it was a part of an 14 Α. 15 email, and it was part of our email discussion. 16 Okay. So -- so my question is this email and this map were sent out to -- to you by Mike Hart on July 19, 2020, 17 18 correct? 19 Α. Yes, sir. 20 All right. And the letter that we discussed that 0. 21 Mr. Levy sent out was sent out on September 1, 2020. Is that 22 correct? 23 That is correct. Α. Yes. 24 Okay. And so my question to you is is it -- is it 0. 25 your understanding that the project, or the project when you began the eminent domain process was not the project that is 2.6 represented in this email on -- or in this aerial photograph 27

with the overlay on July 19, 2020?

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letter?

A. As I -- as I previously said, this email was a part of a very lengthy conversation that Mike Hart was having amongst his colleagues and his staff.

And, no, this map or this image was not a part of the

- on the plan that was provided to Mr. Levy.

 Q. Okay. So what -- what was your understanding of the plan as of September 1, 2020, when Mr. Levy sent out his
- A. It is -- it is consistent with the plan that is before the Court today, and that is the plan that we had solidified by our outside architect, Hornberger and Worstell, that includes rail, transload facilities, maintenance facilities, parking, offices, and a depo area.
 - Q. Okay. If you look at the big binder, you can look at Exhibit 4.
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. Is that the plan that you were just referring to?
- 18 A. Yes.
 - Q. Okay. So it's your understanding that the plan that was in place at least discussion wise was in place as of September 1, 2020, was effectively this plan in Exhibit 4. Is that correct?
 - A. The elements of that plan.
 - Q. Okay. So it's your understanding, or your testimony that between the time frame of July 19th and September 1st, the -- the plan for what was to occur and the improvements to be made on Mr. Meyer's property completely changed from a campground and RV park into the plan that is in

2.4

Exhibit 4. Is that correct?

A. Yes. And, as I previously testified, the notion of a campground and an RV park is something we are not in the business of doing.

It is something that came recommended to Jeff Miller via Eli as being potentially quite lucrative during the COVID time. We're not in the business of running campgrounds or owning campgrounds.

And, again, through my discussions with Mr. Hart, it was in order to grow this business, and to grow this railroad, and to continue to serve our community in the way the railroad was founded, this is what we need to get on with doing.

Q. Okay. Now, we reviewed all the emails in Exhibit D, and there did not seem to be any discussion regarding the movements that are in Exhibit 4.

So is it your understanding that all these discussions were had internally, and nothing was done -- as far as the type of plan that is referenced in Exhibit 4, nothing was referenced in an email. Is that correct?

A. That is correct.

And as I stated before, I think it was in response to your question of is it a waste of resources to pursue discussions about options that didn't benefit the railroad, suffice to say that we spent several months and a waste of Mendocino Railway's resources having these discussions about the campground and such. And I would agree with that again.

Q. Before this litigation was filed, Mendocino Railway never provided Mr. Meyer with a specific description

28

Q.

1 of the use that it intended to make of his parcel, correct? 2 I believe in our letter to Mr. Meyer, a notice of intent to appraise that should have been included, or it was included in there. 4 5 So -- so the letter you're referring to would be 0. 6 the letter that Mr. Levy sent out? The September 1st letter? 7 Is that correct? 8 Α. It's -- it strikes me as that there should have 9 been, or there was another letter that came from Mendocino 10 Railway on or about that time that would have included that. 11 Q. Included what? 12 Α. But I -- I can't speak to -- I can't speak with 13 absolute certainty that that's the case. 14 Q. Okay. So I'm just trying to clarify here. 15 said it would have included that. What, specifically, are you 16 referring to? It would have included a description of the 17 project? 18 Α. It would have included a -- a reason for the 19 taking. 20 Okay. Would it haven included a description of 21 what the projects were going to be? Specifically, the 22 improvements that were going to be made to Mr. Meyer's 23 property? 24 Α. Again, we talked about the elements of the 25 project, but that hadn't been solidified in an illustrated 26 form.

referring to? Have you seen it during this trial?

So are you aware of this letter that you're

1	A. The Levy letter?
2	Q. No. The letter that you claim was sent out to
3	Mr. Meyer?
4	A. It's something that I'll have to review to see if
5	it exists.
6	MR. JOHNSON: Okay. I would like to refer the
7	Court to page 40 of Mr. Pinoli's deposition.
8	THE COURT: Hold on. Let me get it. Okay. Line?
9	BY MR. JOHNSON:
10	Q. Line 1:
11	"QUESTION: Okay. So in paragraph 2 of Exhibit 15
12	in the complaint, it says in quotes, 'The project for which
13	plaintiff seeks to acquire the below-described property
14	consists of future freight and passenger rail operations and
15	all uses necessary and convenient thereto,' end of quote."
16	"Would it be correct to say that Mr. Meyer was never
17	provided with any type of specificity beyond what is
18	referenced in paragraph two with regards to what the project
19	is going to consist of on his property?"
20	"ANSWER: There may have been the initial letter
21	which was sent out to him which would start the eminent domain
22	process, the motion of intent to appraisal, followed up by the
23	letter the letter of just compensation may have described
24	it. But without it in front of me, I don't want to
25	speculate."
26	The letter my question to you, Mr. Pinoli, is that
27	letter that is referenced here, the letter of that you
28	refer to as the letter of just compensation, would that

1 would that be referring to the letter that's in Exhibit E? 2 Again, I'd have to review the exhibit binder that 3 Mr. Block put together and see if there wasn't an additional 4 letter in there. 5 Q. Okay. So would it be correct to say you don't 6 know? 7 That would be fine. It would be consistent with Α. 8 what my deposition said. 9 0. Okay. Under eminent domain law, a general 10 statement of public use for which the property is to be taken 11 is required by the Code of Civil Procedure section 12 1250.310(d)(1). Is that correct? Do you know? 13 MR. BLOCK: That's not one of the statutes in your supplemental request for judicial notice, is it? 14 15 BY MR. JOHNSON: 16 0. Do you know if that's the case? 17 THE COURT: Are you asking him to review the 18 statute? 19 MR. JOHNSON: No. I'll rephrase the question. 20 BY MR. JOHNSON: 21 Do you have an understanding of whether or not eminent domain law requires a general statement of public use 22 23 for which the property is to be taken? 24 Α. Again, these are conversations we would have had 2.5 with our counsel, who is an expert in the process of eminent 26 domain. So I feel as if you are asking me to determine if the 27 legal -- the legalness of a statute. 28 And so the answer is that you're not familiar with Q.

that requirement? I'm asking if you're familiar with that requirement or not?

- A. I am familiar with the requirements of, you know, that the property has to have a stated benefit for, you know, public interest, and that necessity is required -- that it's sought to be acquired because it is necessary for the project, and that it's, you know, it's compatible with the greatest public good and the least private injury.
- Q. Okay. Are you familiar with the eminent domain requirement that requires that the project be necessary?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. And why is this project necessary? Do you know?
- A. The -- I've stated in my testimony over the last couple of days that in order for the railroad to continue to grow and to meet the demands and the requests that we are getting from outside businesses -- this isn't the railroad soliciting business; this is other businesses coming to the railroad -- that there is a request for this type of service.

And in order to facilitate this type of service and bring cohesiveness to the railroad's operations that presently are disjointed on the eastern side of our line, that this property is necessary.

23 BY MR. JOHNSON:

- Q. Okay. Your Honor, I'd like to refer you to page 41, line 15.
- "QUESTION: Is this -- is this project necessary?"
- 27 "ANSWER: Yes."
 - "QUESTION: Why is this project necessary?"

"ANSWER: Well, it's necessary because in order for the railroad to continue to grow and expand, we need the appropriate facilities to do just that."

"QUESTION: Any other reason why it's necessary?"
"ANSWER: No."

Mr. Pinoli, in your opinion and in Mendocino Railway's opinion is the project plan located in a manner that will be most compatible for the greatest public good?

- A. Yes, sir I believe it is.
- Q. And why do you say that?
- A. Well, for the reasons that I have described over the last couple of days, and that is that it has its proximity to the state -- to State Route 20, it's proximity to the rail corridor, and giving other businesses the opportunity to work with the railroad in order to get their goods and services to them in a manner which advances those businesses, and, overall, advances the economic impact they have within our community.
- Q. Okay. Is there any other reason why this project is located in a manner that will be most compatible with the greatest public good and the least private injury?
- A. Well, in determining -- in our process to determine and sort of vet the other properties, there were a variety of factors that we looked at, size, what was on those properties, constraints, natural -- what I would consider are natural constraints or barriers, and the fact that this property is bare land.

There is no house, so there is no displacement of

residents. There is no infrastructure to this property. 1 2 It is bare land adjacent to the rail quarter. 3 adjacent to the highway. It is sandwiched between the two. 4 It is out of town, so there is not congestion and it 5 really allows for the proper flow that is required in that 6 type of facility to accommodate fleet services and 7 transloading services. 8 0. Thank you. Are you done? 9 Α. Yes, sir. 10 MR. JOHNSON: I'd like to refer the Court to page 11 42. Yes. Line 13. 12 "OUESTION: Is there any other reason why this 13 project is located in a manner that will be most compatible 14 with the greatest public good and the least private injury?" 15 Well, I'd better go back to above that, Your Honor, 16 because I asked any other reason. So this would be line 4, 17 page 42. 18 "OUESTION: In your opinion -- in Mendocino Railway's opinion and your opinion, is the project located in 19 20 a manner that would be most compatible for the greatest public 21 good?" 22 "ANSWER: Yes." 23 "QUESTION: Why do you say that?" 24 Well, it's proximity to the highway and "ANSWER: 25 railroad's corridor. It is sandwiched between the two." 26 "QUESTION: Is there any other reason why this 27 project is located in a manner that would be most compatible with the greatest public good and the least private injury?" 28

1 "MR. BLOCK: Objection, vague. Calls for a legal conclusion. Is the question the greatest public good and 3 least private injury, or something else?" 4 "BY MR. JOHNSON: QUESTION: The question is the 5 question that I asked. Would you like the question repeated?" 6 "ANSWER: Would you please repeat the question?" "(The record was read.)" 8 "THE WITNESS: Given the number of trains that we 9 operate, minimizing the number of grade crossing times that 10 occur during the day present when we depart the Willits depo 11 or anywhere in the Willits yard -- there are a number of grade 12 crossings that we go through, so each time you go through a 13 grade crossing, trains never swerve." 14 "Each time you go through a grade crossing, you know, 15 there is the risk of a car running through gates and the car 16 being struck." 17 "By this being located -- our facilities moving to the 1.8 Meyer property, we eliminate that. So there is huge public 19 benefit, a huge public safety benefit." 20 "It also takes the moving or transloading of goods and 21 services out of the central part of downtown Willits, if you 22 will, as it is moved out more into the country." 23 "As far as the second part of your question, which was 24 the injury, this has the effect on one property owner, not 25 multiple property owners, who would be compensated fairly for it." 26 27 THE COURT: So, Mr. Johnson, that's all of the

things he's testified to in the last couple of days, so I

1 don't know that you're really impeaching him here. I'm not sure why you're reading these sections --3 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. 4 THE COURT: -- of the deposition. 5 MR. JOHNSON: I wanted to clarify, because what 6 he's testified to, Your Honor, is well in excess of what he 7 said in these two paragraphs. 8 So I was just making a distinction between the amount of 9 testimony we've heard on all these other issues versus what 10 was said at his deposition, but I'll move on. 11 THE COURT: Okav. 12 BY MR. JOHNSON: 13 Mr. Pinoli, will you look at Exhibit 4? 0. 14 the map that sites the preliminary site plan. 15 Α. I have the map here. 16 0. Okay. So this was the preliminary site plan, and 17 I received it on June 24, 2020. And you testified that it was 18 prepared sometime in June 2020. Is that correct? 19 Α. Yes. 2.0 All right. Now, if you look at the site plan, on 21 the right of the plan, there is a -- I guess it would be a 22 reference to a natural habitat preserve. Do you see that? 23 Α. I do. 24 And does that -- that generally looks like it's 0. 25 pointing to a creek and some trees. Is that right? 26 Α. Yes. 27 0. And I believe you testified yesterday that that --28 that natural habitat would block or prevent you -- prevent the

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railroad from using that portion of the site. Is that correct?

- A. I believe I even went a step further, in saying that we had no intention of knocking down trees or disrupting the stream bed so that that area was precluded, if you will, from our developing it.
- Q. Okay. Is there a reason why the railroad needs to take that portion of the property?
- A. Well, it's my understanding that if we're taking a piece of property via eminent domain, that we can't leave the person who currently owns the property, Mr. Meyer, with something that is disjointed, meaning something that is disconnected.

It doesn't abut his other two parcels that he owns. He has no way to access the parcels that he owns, which I believe yesterday they were 40 and 41 -- if my memory serves me correctly -- to the west, and he would be landlocked. There is no ingress or egress.

- Q. Okay. Well, my question to you would be wouldn't it be possible to allow Mr. Meyer to retain a portion of this natural habitat area and allow him to access it off of Highway 20?
- A. Given what is going on with the property currently, I can't imagine what Mr. Meyer would be doing with it. It's not suitable for development. It's not suitable for stacking dirt.
 - Q. It may be suitable for a house, don't you think?
- A. I don't believe so.

1	Q. And why do you say that?
2	A. I don't believe that the setback requirements are
3	consistent.
4	Q. Okay. Do you know for sure?
5	A. I said I don't believe. I don't know for sure.
6	Q. And when you're talking about setback
7	requirements, you're talking about setback requirements from
8	what? Highway 20?
9	A. Setback requirements from the creek and the trees.
10	Q. Okay. And if the setback requirements could be
11	met, do you think it's possible that, you know, Mr. Meyer may
12	have an interest in retaining that portion of the property if
13	you're not going to use it?
14	A. I don't believe Mr. Meyer has an interest in
15	retaining that portion of the property.
16	Q. Why do you say that?
17	A. In my conversations with Mr. Meyer leading up to
18	our filing the eminent domain matter, that was not something
19	that we discussed.
20	Q. And since you didn't discuss it, you don't believe
21	he wants to retain it. Is that right?
22	A. Yes. We didn't discuss it.
23	Q. And based on your statements, you're never going
24	to use this portion of the property. Is that right?
25	A. There's nothing that would preclude us from
26	parking vehicles over here, or what have you. When I say
27	"over here", I mean towards the trees.

It's just that it's not something that would be developed

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from a standpoint of knocking down trees, or trying to reroute 1 an active waterway. 3 Okay. All right. Thank you. And if you'll look 0. 4 on the left portion of the map here where it says, Maintenance 5 Repair Facilities, and Yard Maintenance of Way, and 6 Maintenance of Equipment? Do you see that? Α. I do. Yes, sir. 8 All right. That would be where you would work on 0. 9 the -- the equipment for your operation. Is that correct? 10 That's correct. Α. 11 I would guess that that could be loud sometimes. 0. 12 Is that correct? 13 It could be. Α. 14 And right next to -- right behind that maintenance Ο. 15 facility are two houses. Is that right? 16 Α. There are. 17 0. One of those houses Mr. Meyer owns. 18 correct? 19 Α. Yes. 20 When you -- when this plan was put together a 0. 21

- couple of months ago, or this -- this map was put together a couple of months ago, was it -- did you take into consideration the impact that using a maintenance facility right next to two houses would have on the neighbors?

 A. The facility is an indoor facility, so it is
- A. The facility is an indoor facility, so it is completely enclosed. The work that would be done on the rail cars would not be done on the exterior, but, rather, on the interior.

The purpose of putting a pit and the overhead cranes in a building are to keep those pieces of equipment or tools out of the weather, and so, as a result of that, equipment repairs would be inside the building.

I can't imagine that the repair work that we would be doing to be any noisier than the highway traffic that is adjacent to those houses.

- Q. You would be driving trains in and out of that, wouldn't you?
- A. Well, you would -- from -- from a railroading standpoint, you would be idling equipment in and out of there.

This -- this -- it would -- this would be notch one, or gear one, if you will, from railroading terms. So it would be minimal power used.

- 15 Q. It's pretty loud, though. A train is loud, is it 16 not?
 - A. Trains are. Particularly, the four new low-emission locomotives that we have slated to come, with one of the three engines operating, they are the equivalent of a modern diesel truck engine.
 - Q. Okay. So is it your testimony then that having a maintenance facility and the trains going back and forth behind Mr. Meyer's house would have no real impact on him?
 - A. I don't believe that they would.
 - Q. And was that -- was that issue evaluated when you came up with this plan?
 - A. Absolutely. When we came up with this plan, it was designed in a way that could accommodate all of the

necessary items that are needed for this facility.

Q. Okay. I mean, it looks like it would be possible to have put the maintenance facility somewhere farther away from the houses. Is that possible for this plan?

- A. That's something that I would have to review and -- and speak to our engineers about.
- Q. Okay. Do you believe that Mendocino Railway has the right to take private property as a record, and turn it into a campground and an RV park?
- A. No. I don't believe that we have the right to take property and convert it -- via eminent domain, and convert it into a campground or RV park.
- Q. Do you believe that the operation of a campground and RV park is consistent with the operation of a railroad?
 - A. I do not believe it is.
- Q. Do you believe that Mendocino Railway has the right to take a piece of property and use it however it wants to?
- A. No. I think Mendocino Railway, or any other railway for that matter, has the right to take a piece of property and use it consistent with the plan that they have set forth.
- Q. Are you familiar with the term "railroad corporation"?
- A. I'm familiar with the -- the suggestion of railroad corporation.
 - Q. Can you explain what you mean by "suggestion"?
 - A. Well, a corporation -- a business that is a

railroad that is incorporated would be a railroad corporation. 1 2 Okay. And I'd like to refer you to these Q. 3 documents -- they are called Request for Judicial Notice --4 that I've provided to you. 5 Α. Is that the large stapled packet? 6 0. Yes. 7 Α. Okay. 8 If you'll look at Exhibit D of this request for 0. 9 judicial notice? 10 Α. Sorry. Was that Exhibit D? 11 0. D, as in dog. It's a -- it's a statute. 12 called California Public Utilities Code, Section 230. And it 13 defines railroad corporation. Do you recall ever reviewing this statute? 14 15 Α. Yes. 16 And when do you recall reviewing it for the first 0. 17 time? 18 Oh, I know that we reviewed it most -- well, I Α. 19 believe in our deposition. 20 Okay. Does -- does the Mendocino Railway believe 21 that it is a railroad corporation? 22 Α. Yes. Without question. 23 0. Okay. And does the Mendocino Railway claim to be 24 a common carrier? 25 Without question. Α. Yes. And you're familiar with the term "common 26 Q. 27 carrier", and what it means? 28 Α. I am familiar with the term common carrier.

carrier.

1 And are you familiar with the definition of common 2 carrier, which is -- and the request for judicial notice? 3 is Exhibit A. 4 A, as in apple, sir? Α. 5 Q. Yes. 6 Α. Yes. 7 Okay. And when you refer to a common carrier, do 0. you know if you're referring to what is defined in Exhibit A, 8 9 or do you have some other definition? 10 Α. The definition here adequately states what Mendocino Railway's operation, California Western Railroad, 11 12 does. Does Mendocino Railway also consider itself 13 Q. Okay. a public utility? 14 15 Α. Yes. 16 Yes, it does? Okay. 0. 17 And if you look at Exhibit B of the request for judicial 18 notice, there is a statute. The statute is California Public 19 Utility's code, section 216 and it defines public utility. 20 When you say that you are a public utility, do you believe that you are a public utility based on this California 21 22 statute, or is it some other reason that you think you are a 23 public utility? 24 Or if you don't know, you can say you don't know. 2.5 Α. Well, it says in the opening line, there, that 26 public utility includes every common carrier, and we, 27 California Railway Western Railroad, is, in fact, a common

28

Q.

1 0. Okay. And why do you say that you're a common 2 carrier? 3 Α. Because we are a railroad that has a corporation in the state of California. We are recognized by the Surface 4 5 Transportation Board as a Class 3 common carrier. 6 Okay. If you -- if you look at Exhibit C, that's 0. the California Public Utilities Code, section 229, and it 8 appears to define the term "railroad"? 9 Α. Yes. When you say that your Mendocino Railways is a 10 0. 11 railroad, is it your understanding that you are a railroad as 12 defined by this statute 229? 13 Α. Yes. 14 And how do you have an understanding -- you, Ο. 15 personally, have an understanding that the Mendocino Railway 16 is a railroad? 17 Well, I mean, we are a railroad. Α. 18 And as it's defined right here, we do provide special 19 service, and we do have all of the supporting structures that 20 it further defines, tracks, bridges, tresses, right-of-way 21 tunnels, stations depos, yards, grounds, structures, 22 equipment, and all other real estate, pictures, personal 23 property, and every kind used in connection there within. All of those items that I just listed off are all of the 2.4 25 items that make up the California Western Railroad track, 26 which is one of Mendocino's operations.

statute, it goes on. And this is the third line from about

Okay. And if you look at the -- the end of this

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the middle of the third line on the definition of railroad.
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 2
         It says, "...and all other real estates, pictures, and
 3
    personal property of every kind used in connection with,
    owned, controlled, operated, or managed for public use in the
 4
 5
    transportation of person or property." Do you see that?
 6
          Α.
                I sure do.
                So is it your understanding that the Mendocino
          0.
 8
    Railroad transports persons or property?
 9
          Α.
                Absolutely.
                And it's your understanding that the
10
          0.
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    transportation of persons or property is -- is a function of
    -- of the Mendocino Railway. Is that correct?
12
13
          Α.
                That is correct.
                And how -- how do you make that determination?
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          0.
                Because what the railroad is doing today is no
15
          Α.
16
    different than what the railroad has been doing for its
17
    137 years of existence.
                Okay. So what you're doing today is the same
18
19
    thing that it's been doing in the past. Is that right?
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                That is correct.
          Α.
                So it would be the same that was being done in
21
          0.
2.2
    1998, for example. Is that correct?
23
          Α.
                1967, 1956, 1925, and so on.
24
          0.
                2004?
          Α.
25
                2004.
26
                Thank you. I would -- I'd like to refer you to
          0.
    Exhibit J in the request for judicial notice.
27
28
         This is a California Public Utilities Commission decision
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1 dated January 21, 1998. The reference number is 1998 Cal. PUC Lexis 189. 3 And it's titled, "In the matter of the application, California Western Railroad, Inc., for authority to modify 4 scheduled commuter passenger service and seek relief from 5 6 regulated excursions, passenger scheduling and fares." Do you see that? 8 Α. Yes, sir. 9 Do you recall ever reviewing this decision? 0. 10 Α. Yes. 11 When do you recall first reviewing this decision? 0. 12 I was a part of the process in 1998. Α. 13 Okay. And so -- so you were a part of the actual Q. 14 process that -- or PUC process, or evaluation for this 15 decision. Is that correct? 16 A. . I was. 17 Okay. So it would be correct to say that you were 0. 18 aware of this decision since 1998? 19 Α. Yes. Okay. If you go to the page 5 of this decision, 2.0 21 on the bottom of page 5 it says Findings of Fact. Do you see 22 that? 23 Α. I do. 24 "No. 1, CWRR seeks relief from regulation by 25 commission over its excursion passenger service." "No. 2, CWRR's excursion surface does not constitute --" 26 27 and then in quotations, "' -- transportation under the 28 provisions of PU Code section 1007.'" Are you familiar with

what that means?

- A. I am.
- Q. Okay. So as of this decision, it appears that the California Public Utilities Commission did not think that the CWRR service constituted transportation. Is that correct?
 - A. No. That is not correct.
 - Q. Okay. What is wrong with that statement?
- A. What's wrong with that statement is the same inconsistency that people from 1998 until present date continue to believe, and that is that the CPUC deregulated the railroad. And that couldn't be further from the truth.

If you turn to page 6 and read line 1, it says that the excursions and fares provided by the California Western Railroad shall not be subject to the regulation by the Commission.

And if you read further below that, you'll see that the Commission reserves its right to fully regulate the railroad in all other aspects.

Last week, the CPUC inspectors showed up to do their routine inspections of the railroad as an entity that was deregulated or not under the jurisdiction of the California Public Utilities Commission.

Q. Okay. But my question did not have anything to do with the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Commission, or whether or not it's still regulating Mendocino Railways.

My question referred to what the finding in No. 2 states. CWRR's excursion services does not constitute a transportation under code section 1007.

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And my question is is that -- is it your understanding that as far as the PUC is concerned, the CWRR's excursion service does not constitute transportation?

A. Yes. But all of the other services do constitute

- transportation.
- Q. Okay. But it's your understanding that the PUC believes that your service does not constitute transportation from 1998. Is that correct?
 - A. With respect to excursion.
- Q. Okay. And No. 3, which is on page 6, the primary purpose of CWRR's excursion services is to provide its passengers an opportunity for sightseeing. Is that correct?
- A. With respect to the -- what it says is absolutely correct.
 - Q. All right.
- A. That its excursion services are for sightseeing.

 17 It's other services are not.
- Q. Okay. And finding No. 4 says the Commission has concluded that sightseeing is not a public utility function.
 And it is your understanding that that's what the PUC
- 21 believes. Is that correct?
- A. Sightseeing is not considered a public utility function. That is correct. But all other aspects of the railroad in what we do are.
 - Q. And when you're referring to other aspects, you're referring to the movement of freight, and the passenger transportation. Is that right?
 - A. That is correct.

Q. All right.

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- A. And the other services that we provide to other public utilities as I testified earlier, AT&T, Pacific Gas and Electric, in 2011 when we transported just about every law enforcement agency in the state and the nation on a 37-day man hunt, and transportation or the contemplation of transporting water for a municipal government.
 - Q. Okay. All right. Thank you.

And then, if you look at finding No. 5, it says the Commission currently regulates the safety of all services provided by CWRR. Do you see that?

- A. I sure do.
- O. And that is a true statement?
- A. Absolutely.
- Q. If you look at finding No. 6, it states, "While the Commission ceased to regulate the schedules and fares of sightseeing services provided by bus operators, the safety of operations remain subject to regulation by state agency." Is that true?
 - A. I'm not familiar with the bus business.
- Q. Okay. And the next -- next section is titled Conclusions of Law.
 - No. 1: In providing excursion passenger services, CWRR does not function as a public utility. Is that correct?
- A. In providing excursion passenger services, CWRR does not function as a public utility. That is correct.
- So our excursion services are not subject to the regulation of fares and schedule.

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                THE COURT: Mr. Johnson, my clerk has not had a
 2
    break since 1:15. I think I bypassed it.
 3
         So if can we just take a quick 15-minute break so that
    I'm not violating any rules here? So we'll be back at 4:05.
 5
                                (Recess)
                THE COURT: Let's go back on the record,
 6
    Mr. Johnson.
 7
    BY MR. JOHNSON:
 8
 9
                      Thank you, Your Honor.
          Q.
                Yes.
10
         Mr. Pinoli, will you look at the document Request for
    Judicial Notice, Exhibit K?
11
12
          Α.
                Okay.
13
                All right. That is a court of appeal case for the
          0.
14
    first appellate district, and it's titled City of St. Helena
15
    v. Public Utility's Commission. It's dated June 21, 2004, and
16
    it is referenced as 119 Cal.App.4th 793.
17
         Are you familiar with this decision?
                Vaguely.
18
          Α.
19
                Okay. And do you recall reviewing it at some
          0.
20
    point?
21
                Briefly. At some point, yes.
          Α.
22
                Okay. Do you know when that would have been?
          Q.
23
          Α.
                I don't.
24
          Q.
                Do you know what the decision says or stands for?
25
          Α.
                     If you -- if you wanted to refresh my memory,
26
    that would be great.
27
                            This is a decision in which there was
          Q.
                All right.
28
    -- the Court was asked to evaluate the Wine Train and the
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services that the Wine Train provides in Napa County. 2 Are you familiar with the Wine Train. 3 Α. I am. 4 Q. Does one of your companies own the Wine Train? 5 Α. No. So the Sierra Northern, or Sierra Railroad doesn't 6 0. own the Wine Train? 7 No, sir. We do not. 8 Α. 9 Okay. And in this decision, the court of appeal Q. 10 evaluates and discusses the services that the Wine Train provides, and, also in the discussion, it evaluates the CPUC's 11 12 decision involving the Skunk Train and the -- the services 13 that the Skunk Train provides. 14 And I won't go specifically through it, but there is a 15 few things I would like to review with you. 16 If you look at page 7 of this decision -- when I refer to 17 7, I'm talking about up on the top right there is a page 18 number. 19 Α. Yes, sir. Okay. On -- on this Section 1, it says, "The Wine 20 21 Train is not a common carrier providing 'transportation'," and 22 transportation is in quotations. 23 Do you -- do you -- are you familiar with this portion of 24 the decision at all? 25 Α. No. I mean, I -- I'm happy to read it, if you'd like. 26 27 All right. So, I mean, just as you sit here Q. 28 today, you're not aware of the fact that the -- the California

Court of Appeal determined that the Wine Train did not provide transportation. Is that correct?

- A. Transportation defined as?
- Q. Well, according to this, under that Section 1 here that is referenced, it says, "Our Supreme Court has defined transportation as the taking up of persons or property at some point and putting them down at another."

That's how they define transportation in this case.

- A. Sure.
- Q. All right. And so -- so prior to today, were you aware of the fact that the Wine Train did not provide transportation as defined by this case?

MR. BLOCK: I'm going to object, Your Honor.

I'm not sure where this line of questioning is going, but I'm not sure what the relevance is of reading Mr. Pinoli from a legal decision or even his understanding of a -- of a legal decision.

THE COURT: Mr. Johnson, I don't know where you're going with this.

MR. JOHNSON: That's fine, Your Honor. I'll tell you where I'm going with this.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. JOHNSON: I guess where I'm going with it -- and I can deal with it differently, but where I'm going with it is, authoritatively, throughout this process the Mendocino Railway in every document that they have filed with the court and continually throughout the testimony of Mr. Pinoli, he has stated that they are a public utility, a common carrier, a

railroad corporation, and that they are subject to the powers 2 that those types of entities have to proceed with in an 3 eminent domain action. So, collectively, he's said it hundreds of times 5 throughout this hearing. And my question to him is I'm trying 6 to understand if he really understands what those terms mean. THE COURT: Okay. Well, I think you're getting 7 8 into an area where you're really asking him for, you know, 9 some legal opinions. 1.0 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. That's fine. I'll --11 THE COURT: And I don't know that it makes any difference. 12 13 He's testified over the last couple of days -- three 14 days, now, of what the train is all about, and what they 15 intend to do and have done. 16 And I think then it becomes a legal question, I think. 17 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Well, Your Honor, I would 18 just request that the -- that you read this decision. 19 THE COURT: Well, of course I will. 20 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. 2.1 THE COURT: And don't assume that I haven't 22 already read it. 23 MR. JOHNSON: Good point. 24 Your Honor, I would -- I would move to have the -- or, I 25 don't know if I did move already to have the documents in the 2.6 request for judicial notice and the supplemental request for 27 judicial notice accepted into evidence.

Well, the Court can take judicial

THE COURT:

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1
    notice of these documents.
                                I don't know that you need to move
 2
    them in as exhibits, or anything. I'll take judicial notice.
 3
                MR. JOHNSON:
                              Just judicial notice.
                                                      Thank vou.
 4
                MR. BLOCK: And so I assume that the Court will
 5
    take judicial notice of the plaintiff's request for judicial
 6
    notice and supplemental?
 7
                THE COURT:
                            Absolutely.
 8
                MR. BLOCK:
                            Thank you, Your Honor.
 9
                MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Your Honor, I would also like
10
    to move in exhibit -- my exhibits.
11
         We haven't discussed them, and I don't think it's
12
    necessary to go through them specifically right now.
13
         But I would like to move in the responses to certain
14
    special interrogatories and form interrogatories that were
15
    provided by Mendocino Railway, and they are these documents
16
    referenced in the exhibit binder, Plaintiff's Exhibit H;
17
    Plaintiff Mendocino Railway's response to Defendant John
18
   Meyer's special interrogatory, Set 1.
         Also, Exhibit J, plaintiff's response to form
19
20
    interrogatories Set 1.
21
         And, also, Exhibit K, plaintiff's responses to Meyer's
22
    request for admissions, Set 1.
23
         And the specific interrogatories, or responses, that I
24
   would request the Court take judicial notice of are special
    interrogatory No. 1, special interrogatory No. 4, special
25
26
    interrogatory No. 7, special interrogatory No. 23, special
2.7
    interrogatory No. 24, and special interrogatory No. 25.
28
         And I think it should be special interrogatory No. 4, but
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1	it is mistakenly referred to again as No. 24.
2	And, then, also, form interrogatory response 17.1.
3	THE COURT: Okay.
4	MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Your Honor.
5	THE COURT: Any objection to the admission of
6	these?
7	MR. BLOCK: Not really an objection, just a
8	clarification.
9	I mean, first of all, it's just our responses. And while
10	our responses recite the request, it doesn't include the
11	definitions, and things like that.
12	So I think the the request should also be provided to
13	the Court so the Court has a full record to define terms and
14	all of that, No. 1.
15	No. 2, the request for admissions, obviously, need to be
16	included if you're going to look at 17.1 of the form logs. So
17	let's have a full and complete record, requests, responses.
18	MR. JOHNSON: That's fine Your Honor.
19	THE COURT: Can you submit those?
20	MR. JOHNSON: Yeah. You know, the reason I didn't
21	is because Mr. Block specifically put in the request before
22	the answer. But I have no problem submitting those.
23	THE COURT: Why don't you submit that as well.
24	MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.
25	MR. BLOCK: So no objection to H, J, and K. And,
26	maybe, to save exhibit numbers and everything, to each of the
27	exhibit numbers will be the request and the responses.
28	THE COURT: All right. So Exhibits, H, J, and K

will be received. 2 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Your Honor. 3 (Respondent's Exhibits H, J, and K were admitted into evidence.) 5 BY MR. JOHNSON: You know, Mr. Pinoli, I would refer you to the 6 0. 7 exhibit binder, the big one. And there is Exhibit No. 5. And I'd specifically refer you to Exhibit 5-3. Α. Okay. 10 0. I believe you testified yesterday that this references the freight cars that Mendocino -- or freight and 11 12 other cars -- well, can you -- why don't you just state what does Exhibit 5.3 reflect? 13 14 Α. Sure. I believe that this was testimony on the 15 first day of trial. And it is railroad freight and MOW cars. 16 The right -- excuse me, the left-hand column is the car 17 number. 18 The type of equipment is the next column. 19 The model number has what ae various reporting marks, and 2.0 other notes or features, the location at the time the list was 21 prepared. 22 And then the far right column would be any additional 23 notes that are important. 24 Q. Okay. 25 Α. The cars -- I'm sorry. Go ahead. 26 Q. No. Go ahead. I didn't mean to interrupt you. 27 Α. The car, the cars are tank car, rock car, flat

car, flat car, and a rock car/side dump.

1	THE REPORTER: Slash what?
2	THE WITNESS: Side dump.
3	BY MR. JOHNSON:
4	Q. So it appears that in the Fort Bragg location
5	there is one tank car and one flat car. Is that correct?
6	A. At the time this list was created, yes.
7	Q. Do you know when this list was created, about?
8	A. I don't recall. I'm sorry.
9	And the last time I did a walk through the yard, I do
10	believe that that was that is correct that the tank car and
11	one flat car were in Fort Bragg.
12	Q. Okay. And then it appears in Willits there is one
13	rock car, one flat car, and one rock car/side dump. Is that
14	correct?
15	A. Yes. That sounds correct.
16	Q. All right. Now, are these are these cars that
17	are referenced, do you use those for maintenance of the line?
18	A. They can be used for maintenance of the line.
19	Q. Okay. Do you use them for maintenance of the
20	line?
21	A. On occasion, we do.
22	Q. So if you need to dump rock, you would use a rock
23	car. Is that right?
24	A. That's correct.
25	Q. And if you needed to take say, for example,
26	railroads rails out, you would use a flat car. Is that right?
27	A. That's correct.
28	Q. And these represent, basically, all the

1 freight/maintenance cars -- is that right? -- that Mendocino 2 Railway owns? 3 Α. It would represent the freight cars, yes. 4 Maintenance -- additional maintenance equipment would be 5 listed on Exhibit 5-4. 6 0. Okay. All right. All right. Thank you very 7 much. 8 If you'll flip to Exhibit 10? 9 Α. Okay. 1.0 0. It appears -- and this -- would it be correct to 11 say that these are -- or can you explain what -- it says 12 Commute Fares. Can you explain what these documents reflect? 13 So there are three separate documents in here, and 14 these are updates to the commute fares for the years 2014, 15 2016, and 2017. 16 And as I testified to earlier, these set out the terms 17 for the depo staff, the ticket agents on which to -- on how to process commute tickets, and also supplies a list in each of 18 19 the documents where there are residences, who the residences 20 are, their last names, and designates stations that are in 21 bold that are designated flag stops. 22 While we may be a flag stop railroad, for any of the 23 40 miles, these are the designated flag stops to be on the 24 lookout.

Q. Okay. So these would be -- these are what are called commute fares? For example, we'll look at the last one, which was updated in 2017.

That starts at Exhibit 10.17.

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28

action. Is that right?

1 Α. Okay. 2 All right. So is it correct to say that these are 0. 3 the fares that would apply if -- I think you testified earlier 4 that sometimes they weren't round trips; they were one-way 5 trips. Is that right? 6 Α. That's correct. 7 0. So if there was a round trip, or excursion trip, 8 they would not use these commute fares, right? 9 If there was an excursion trip, they would not use these fares. 10 If there was a round trip for somebody going out to a 11 residence and returning the next day or days later, they would 12 use these fares, because it would be to an intermediate 13 station along the route. 14 All right. And -- and this 2017, would that be 15 16 the commute fare that would be in a place now? That's a separate document that we reviewed. 17 No. 18 That's another exhibit in this binder. Oh. So this isn't the exhibit now? 19 0. 20 Α. It was replaced by a document -- give me a second. 21 I can point you to where it's at, perhaps. 22 MR. BLOCK: Exhibit 7. BY MR. JOHNSON: 23 24 Okay. Exhibit 7 went into effect, it looks like, 0. 25 on January 1, 2022. Is that correct? 26 Α. That's correct.

All right. So that was after the filing of this

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A. That's correct.

Yes, sir.

Q. I would like to go back to Exhibit 10 to the -- let's see here. Exhibit 10. It starts at Exhibit 10-17.

If you go to page 10-21, it says on the top of this page Designated Stations and Family Names. Designated station stops are in bold, and all other -- all other are flag stops.

Is that correct?

Α.

- Q. And then it has -- it looks like it has stations on the left side, and then on the right side are the people that live near those stations. Is that correct?
- 12 A. The -- the last names of folks that live at those 13 stations, yes. First names too, in some cases.
- Q. All right. And then that one -- this one appears to be for the Fort Bragg line.

And, then, if you flip the page to 10-23, that appears to be for the -- for the Willits area. Is that right?

- 18 A. Yes. Yes.
 - Q. Okay. And, then, if you go to 10-24, that appears to be the fares as it relates to the different stations. Is that right?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. If you go down to the bottom here, and look at the second sentence, it states tickets may not be sold to nonresidents of the line or guests thereof, and are defined by the proceeding list. Is that correct?
- 27 A. Yes.
 - Q. So does that mean that the only people that can

buy these commuter tickets are the ones that are listed on the previous pages?

A. Given that it is all private property and there is

- no public lands, you wouldn't be transporting somebody to trespass.
 - Q. Okay. So the answer is yes. Is that correct?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. So the only commute -- the only people that can buy commuter tickets are the ones that effectively live out there or their guests?
- A. That's not necessarily correct, because when through service was offered before the closure of the tunnel, the railroad had a partner arrangement with Mendocino Transit Authority, and passengers could ride from either Fort Bragg or Willits to the opposite end one way without restriction.
- Q. Okay. But the way that it's written here, that's the way it works now, right?
- A. Yes.
 - THE COURT: Can I -- can we explore this further? So there was an agreement with MTA?
 - THE WITNESS: Yes. Over the years, it started out when Glenna Blake was working for MTA, and, certainly, before she had passed away, that there was an arrangement with MTA where you could buy a ticket similar to, like, a punch card, if you will.
- And you could use that punch card to travel between Fort Bragg and Willits, or vice versa.
 - THE COURT: And it wasn't for sightseeing, or the

```
tours that are given, or anything? It was just to get to and
 1
 2
    from?
 3
                THE WITNESS: That is correct, Your Honor.
 4
                THE COURT: So is there any documentation of that
 5
                How long ago was that?
    agreement?
                THE WITNESS: I would have to look. It's been
 6
 7
    something that the railroad has done on again, and off again.
         The -- when Ms. Blake was alive, it was -- they had
 8
 9
    received -- as I recall, they had received some grant money.
10
   And it was the grant money that they used to pay, or -- or
11
    support/subsidize the program.
12
                THE COURT: But that program -- when did it stop?
    I mean, when was the last person to utilize that program?
13
14
    When did that happen?
15
                THE WITNESS: I don't recall when the last person
16
    was to utilize the program. I certainly know that it did stop
    as a result of the tunnel's closure.
17
18
                THE COURT: Okay. That would be important
19
    information. If there are any agreements within MTA, I would
20
    really like to see those.
21
                MR. BLOCK: Mr. Pinoli, can you search for those?
22
                THE WITNESS: Yes. We will absolutely do a search
23
    for those, and, to the extent that they exist, we will make
2.4
    them available to our counsel.
2.5
                THE COURT:
                            Okay.
26
                MR. BLOCK:
                            I would also -- I mean, while we're on
27
    the topic, I'll just point out that there is a reference to
28
    commute passenger service with the MTA --
```

1 THE COURT: Right. 2 MR. BLOCK: -- in the city of Fort Bragg. Staff 3 report regarding the build grant. 4 THE COURT: Okay. 5 MR. JOHNSON: Just on the record, for this 6 particular question-and-answer session, I would like to read 7 what Mr. Pinoli said in his deposition. 8 THE COURT: Okay. What page. 9 27. MR. JOHNSON: This is page 27, line 12. 10 "QUESTION: Okay. And then the ongoing passenger 11 rail operations, can you give us a general overview of what 12 they consist of?" 13 "ANSWER: At present, there are trains that depart 14 from Fort Bragg and Willits." 15 "Those trains do carry passengers between two towns, or 16 between Fort Bragg and its then destination and back to Fort 17 Bragg, and Willits to its end destination and back to 18 Willits." 19 "Throughout the course of the year, the railroad is 20 called upon by residents of the line who may have access 21 impaired because of weather, or simply the location, and that 22 the only way for them to get in and out is by rail." 23 "QUESTION: Okay. So are you just -- just to 24 clarify, you're running rail -- you're running passengers out 25 from Fort Bragg and then back to Fort Bragg on a daily basis. 26 Is that correct?" 27 At this time of year, multiple times per "ANSWER: 28 day."

```
"QUESTION: And in the wintertime, the trips go
 1
 2
    down?
 3
                "ANSWER:
                          The schedule has a decrease, but we
 4
    don't ever have a month or a week, let's say, where we're not
 5
    operating."
 6
                            Okay. And, then, you also do the same
 7
    thing from Willits. Is that correct?"
 8
                "ANSWER: That is correct."
 9
                "QUESTION: You go back -- you go out, and come
10
    back?"
11
                "ANSWER:
                          That is correct."
12
                "QUESTION: And those are -- those passenger
13
    services are mainly for tourism purposes.
                                                Is that correct?"
14
                "ANSWER: Yes."
15
                THE COURT:
                            Thank you.
16
    BY MR. JOHNSON:
17
                I believe Mr. Block asked you last week, or -- not
18
    last week, a day or so ago about the commuter fares. Is that
19
    correct?
20
          Α.
                Yes.
21
                And I believe he stated that these commutes --
          Q.
22
    commuter fares were -- were something that the public could
23
    take advantage of. Is that correct?
24
                That's correct.
          Α.
25
                And, in fact, based on what's stated here at
          0.
26
    least, at the time frame that this lawsuit was filed, the
    public could not take advantage of those commuter fares unless
27
28
    the person actually lived out there on the line.
```

1	right?
2	A. I'm sorry. Repeat the question, please?
3	Q. The only people that could take advantage of the
4	commuter fares at the time the lawsuit was filed were people
5	that lived on the line is that right? and their guests?
6	A. That is correct.
7	Q. Did you did you review the trial brief that was
8	filed by the Mendocino Railway?
9	A. Yes.
10	MR. JOHNSON: I don't I don't have an extra
11	copy of it.
12	THE COURT: Do you want me to give him mine? I
13	printed it out of my notebook.
14	BY MR. JOHNSON:
15	Q. Okay. That would be great.
16	Okay. I'd like to refer you to the bottom of page 10 of
17	the Mendocino Railway trial brief.
18	A. Okay.
19	Q. At the last so it's the very last sentence that
20	is cut off on the bottom of page 10.
21	It starts out and states, "The STB has exclusive
22	jurisdiction over the construction and operations of railroad
23	property and facilities."
24	And then it references a federal court case. And then it
25	states, "That means state and local laws and regulations
26	governing railroad construction and operations are federally
27	preempted, but different state law cannot be used to impair a

federal railroad's ability to operate and conduct needed

28

Okay.

Q.

Good.

facilities." 1 2 Do you see that? 3 Α. I do. 4 0. So in saying that -- in making that statement, do 5 you have any idea, or do you know -- are you -- is the 6 Mendocino Railway making the argument that the state court 7 does not or should not be evaluating whether or not eminent 8 domain can occur on -- on Mr. Meyer's property for this project? 10 Α. I believe you're asking me two different 11 questions. 12 You're asking me a question of if the federal 13 jurisdiction which allows railroads to construct facilities 14 consistent with its operation are different than the state 15 laws surrounding eminent domain which the state courts have 16 jurisdiction over. 17 So you're asking me, I believe, two different questions. 18 Q. Well, I'll rephrase the question. 19 Α. I'm happy to carry on, if you'll oblige. 2.0 Q. Okay. 21 And that is that the Mendocino Railway recognizes Α. 22 that a state court has the jurisdiction. It's our complaint 23 against Mr. Meyer, and we're here and have been here for three 24 days. 25 So to suggest that the state court doesn't have 26 jurisdiction in this matter, we would be sitting here contrary 27 to that belief.

Thank you.

```
So just to -- just to be clear, it would be correct to
 1
    state that the Mendocino Railways does not believe that
 3
    federal law preempts California eminent domain laws that apply
 4
    to the taking of Mr. Meyer's property. Is that right?
                MR. BLOCK: You asked for his understanding,
 5
 6
    correct?
 7
    BY MR. JOHNSON:
 8
          0.
                Yeah.
                       Your understanding?
 9
          Α.
                My understanding is that if we were using a
10
    federal preemption, then this would be the wrong venue to
11
    arque that.
12
          0.
                Okay. So would it be correct to say, then, that
13
    the federal preemption does not apply to the taking of
14
    Mr. Meyer's property?
15
                MR. BLOCK:
                            Objection. Calls for a legal
16
    conclusion.
17
                THE COURT:
                            Yeah.
                                   It calls for a legal
    conclusion. But I think he's answered your question based on
18
19
   his understanding.
20
                MR. JOHNSON: All right.
21
                THE WITNESS: Your Honor, would you like this
22
   back?
23
                THE COURT: Yes.
                                  Thank you.
24
                MR. JOHNSON: I have a few photographs I would
25
    like you to look at.
26
         Perhaps I can just give them to you to mark for me, and
    then I'll continue to ask a couple more questions?
2.7
                                                         Thank you.
28
    Let's do them individually so it will be easier to identify.
```

28

0.

Okay.

BY MR. JOHNSON: 1 2 Okay. Mr. Pinoli, I believe it was yesterday. 0. 3 On one of the days we were here, you went into a discussion -- you went into a discussion about the 4 5 requirements for -- infrastructure requirements for hauling freight. Is that correct? 6 Do you recall that as far as the weight capacity for 7 8 bridges and things? 9 Α. Bridge standards. 286 standards? Yes. 10 Q. Can you state those standards require that the 11 bridges be able to withstand 286,000 pounds? 12 Α. That's correct. 13 Q. So that applies -- that -- that weight applies --14 how is that analyzed? 15 Α. The -- the requirement doesn't -- so in order to 16 be 286 compliant, it doesn't mean that your bridges have to 17 withstand 286,000 pounds, unless you have a car that exceeds 18 its load 286,000 pounds. 19 If you don't have a car that exceeds 286,000 pounds, then 20 the 286 standard doesn't apply. 21 But if you're checking the 286 box, then you're checking 22 the box that says your bridges are 286 compliant. 23 0. Okay. And I believe you testified that your 24 bridges are compliant with that. Is that correct? 25 All of the bridges of the railroad are compliant Α. 2.6 with 286 standards, and meet Class 1 conditions.

that the -- from the Willits side -- when you leave the

Now, I believe you also testified yesterday

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0.

that correct?

Okav.

station from the Willits side, generally, the train goes out 1 2 -- the excursion passenger train goes out seven-and-a-half 3 miles and then returns. Is that correct? 4 Α. Yes, sir. The excursion passenger train travels 5 about seven-and-a-half miles, and then returns. 6 Now, are there -- on a regular basis, are there Q. 7 trains that are going farther from Willits -- farther out the 8 line? 9 Α. There are. 10 0. What are those trains? 11 Α. Work trains and/or the transportation of passengers to the residences. 12 13 Okay. So those would be the commuters that we 14 just discussed? Those families? 15 Α. Yes, sir. 16 0. So besides maintenance and those commuter trains, 17 are other trains going out there? 18 Besides maintenance, there may be, yes, 19 absolutely. 20 East -- excuse me, west of where the current excursion 21 operations stop, there are service requests for freight or for 22 other public utilities to access and service their 23 infrastructure. 24 So there are trains that do travel beyond the limits of where an excursion train would travel. 25

was a request for freight or some other type of request.

So those trains would go out there if there

24

27

28

- Α. 1 That's right. 2 Now, does the Mendocino Railway keep its tracks to 0. the same standards in the first seven-and-a-half miles as they 3 do for the remainder of the track? 4 So the -- the entire railroad meets a Class 1 5 Α. standard. The -- the first seven-and-a-half miles departing 6 7 Willits may be Class 1 Plus, maybe up to a Class 2, possibly. 8 But the -- the requirement for maintaining the railroad's infrastructure doesn't change. 9 10 0. Okay. But I would expect that the investment in the tracks do change. Is that correct? 11 12 Α. I'm sorry. Could you clarify? 13 0. The Mendocino Railway's investment in the tracks after the seven-and-a-half miles is probably a lot less per 14 15 mile than, say, the first seven-and-a-half miles. Is that a 16 correct statement? 17 Not necessarily. Because we -- if there are Α. 18 issues, we will address those issues. 19 Okay. When -- it's your intent to, or it's the 20 Mendocino Railway's intent to expand its freight operations. 21 Is that correct? 22 That's correct. Α. 23 Is it going to require additional investment in 0.
 - the actual rail lines and maintenance of the rail lines?

 A. Yes. The maintenance is ongoing, sort of equated
- A. Yes. The maintenance is ongoing, sort of equated to the painting of the Golden Gate bridge. It never stops.
 - Q. Okay. But your plan is -- based on your testimony, is to have transloads and other things that you're

not doing right now. 1 2 And my question to you is would that require the railroad 3 to significantly spend a significant amount of more money on the maintenance and improvement of its existing rail line 4 5 before it can proceed on that kind of operation? There needs to be improvements, but that is 6 Α. 7 continuous. Significant improvements? I wouldn't 8 characterize it as significant improvements. 9 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. You know, Your Honor, at this point, I have these -- these photographs, and then I have a 10 11 few additional documents, but I'm not going to be able to get 12 all of this done in the next 15 minutes. 13 THE COURT: Okay. So let's go off the record. 14 (Discussion held off the record.) 15 THE COURT: Back on the record. So let's just 16 wrap up for today. So we're going to recess for today. 17 going to resume on Monday at 9:00 a.m. 18 Counsel for the plaintiff may appear via Zoom, given the 19 distance that they have traveled, and I won't hold it against 20 you at all. 21 And you just need to log into Department E Zoom, and 22 we'll have that on. 23 And then Mr. Pinoli will be here in person, and, 24 Mr. Johnson, you'll finish your questions and get your 25 exhibits in. And then if there is any redirect, feel free to

MR. BLOCK: Thank you.

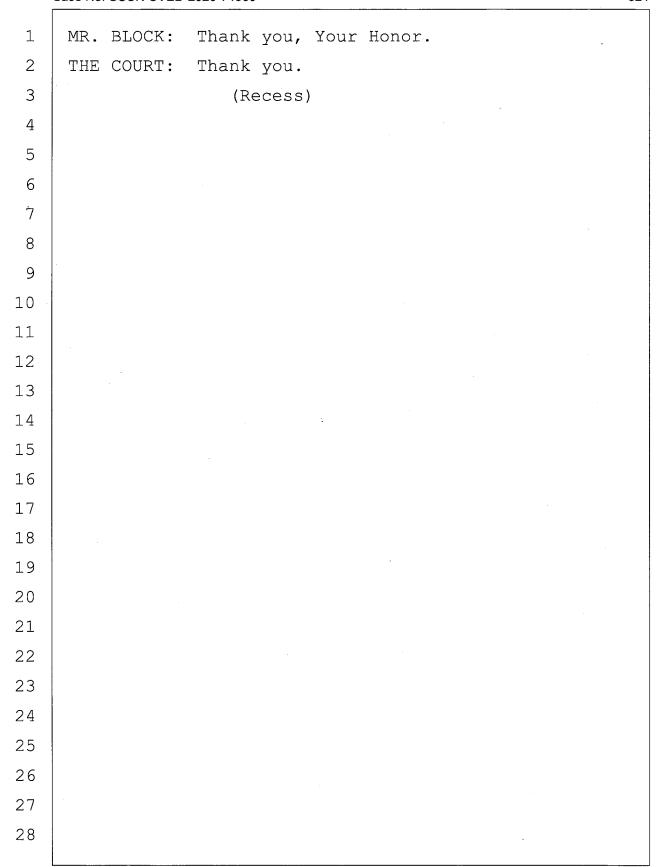
THE COURT: Okay?

26

2.7

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do that.



1	STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
2	COUNTY OF MENDOCINO)
3	
4	
5	
6	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
7	
8	I, CAROL JEANNETTE DEUCHAR, A CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER OF
9	THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING
10	PAGES, NUMBERED 173 TO 322, VOLUME NO. 2, INCLUSIVE, ARE A
11	TRUE AND CORRECT TRANSCRIPTION OF MY SHORTHAND NOTES TAKEN ON
12	AUGUST 25, 2022, IN THE MATTER ENTITLED, MENDOCINO RAILWAY,
13	PETITIONER, VERSUS JOHN MEYER, RESPONDENT, NO.
14	SCUK-CVED-2020-74939 IN THE CIVIL FILES OF THE SUPERIOR
15	COURTS, STATE OF CALIFORNIA.
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	DATED THIS 24TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2022.
21	
22	
23	Carol, Jeannette Deuchar
24	<u> </u>
25	CAROL JEANNETTE DEUCHAR
26	CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER, #13877
27	
28	

SESSIONS			EXHIBIT Q - AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF KOA	ID	v2:211
		····	EXHIBIT Q - AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF KOA	EV	v2:266
VOLUME 1					
Evidentiary Hearing		v1:1			
AUGUST 24, 2022 Morning Session		v1:5			
VOLUME 2			·		
Evidentiary Hearing		v2:173			
AUGUST 24, 2022 Morning Session		v2:176			
EXAMINATIONS - CHRONOLO	OGIC/	AL			
VOLUME 1					
ROBERT J. PINOLI Direct by Mr. Block Cross by Mr. Johnson	MELICOCOLO BALLAN Gene ha BOJA-OME	v1:5 v1:110			
VOLUME 2					
ROBERT J. PINOLI Cross by Mr. Johnson		v2:176			
EXAMINATIONS - ALPHABE	TICAL	-			
		Reporter Cleans of the Beans of Coffliance County of Herndestee			
PINOLI, ROBERT J. Direct by Mr. Block		v1:5			
Cross by Mr. Johnson		v1:110			
Cross by Mr. Johnson		v2:176			
EXHIBITS					
EXHIBIT D - VARIOUS EMAILS AN	D EV	v2:265			
EXHIBIT E - LETTER FROM EXHIBIT H - PLAINTIFF'S	EV EV	v2:265 v2:305			
RESPONSES TO EXHIBIT J - SET ONE OF PLAINTIFF'S	EV	v2:305			
EXHIBIT K - PLAINTIFF'S RESPONSES TO	EV	v2:305			
EXHIBIT O - PHOTOGRAPH OF THE DUDLEY	EV	v2:266			
EXHIBIT P - MENDOCINO RAILWAY MAP	ID	v2:181			
EXHIBIT P - MENDOCINO RAILWAY MAP	EV	v2:266			

ase No. SCUK-CVED-20	J2U-74939 	····	32.
	10-21 309:4	1250.360 264:14	159 242:13
\$	10-23 309:16	1250.370 264:15	16 6:10,16 7:27 9:1
\$300,000 160:17	10-24 309:19	126 221:11	100:22,28 198:8 199:11
\$400 229:10	10-minute 110:8	127 197:21 218:19	16.4 19:11
\$400,000 206:13	10.17 307:28	219:1,22	160 238:22 241:14
	100 86:5 142:1 144:4,6,	128 216:2,3 217:19 218:21	161 238:23 240:22
. •	7		162 238:23 239:2
-06 183:12	1007 296:28	129 197:21 207:22 216:12	163 236:8
	1007.''' 295:28	12:17 242:14	165- 193:25
-07 183:4,7 185:5 -8 11:19	101 76:18 87:4 95:1,13 181:21,22	12:24 243:5	17 6:3 33:12,15 34:3,9, 11,13 36:2,6,11,13,15
	1031 216:21,22,28	12:26 244:13	37:28 67:18 72:8,11
0	218:1 251:7	12:41 245:15	157:8 163:7 164:23 176:13 215:20
) 18:21 43:24	1033 218:1,2 250:17,19,	12:46 248:8	17.1 304:2,16
0135 156:27 157:1	28 251:3,5 259:28 260:11	12:49 248:20	1700 91:25,28
07 185:10	1057 53:26	13 283:11	171 223:2 275:10
	108 197:12,14,18,21	130 198:25,26 203:4	172 227:18
1	222:15	131 195:7 196:24	173 197:20
1 14.0 20.17 02 26.07	10:30 48:9	198:21,23,28	174 197:20
1 14:2 32:17,23 36:27 39:20 104:19 106:20	10:43 258:18	132 191:6	175 254:17 258:6,8,13
107:2,28 108:10	10:45 48:10 222:22	133 188:16,19 190:9	262:10
133:25,26 134:23,24 135:27 136:24 137:8,25	10ish 93:23	134 176:15,22	176 252:21,22,24
139:12 140:14 142:3	10th 119:4,7	135 157:6 176:14	17th 119:1 138:15,20
268:4,10,17 269:28 275:21 276:7,21 279:10	11 35:24 36:28 67:18	136 157:25	18 176:24 188:19
295:24 296:12 298:23	121:22 252:5	137 17:24 247:17,20 294:17	1885 102:14
300:20 301:4 303:18, 20,22,25 304:14 308:25	112 52:1	137-year 30:6	189 295:2
317:26 319:5,7	119 299:16	137-year 30.0 14 191:9 192:10 242:5	18th 178:20
1,000,000 205:17	11:03 258:10,19	1401 152:14 198:16	19 33:4 39:24 71:9,17
1,440 100:13	11:12 260:9	261:25	140:13 223:11 224:2
1,480 99:9	11:50 242:12	15 109:15,27 110:4	233:4 242:28 252:26 275:17,28
1,560 99:10	11th 34:16 119:4,7	119:23 122:8,11 195:9	1900s 24:22
1 ,700 193:15	12 97:8 119:23 160:18	196:25 245:15 279:11 281:25 320:12	1915 115:13,16
1.6 229:16	161:1 188:27 189:5 190:14,22,24 191:1	15-minute 299:3	1925 294:23
1/27 216:4	312:9	155 249:20,24 252:24	1956 294:23
10 59:19 70:3 74:18	1240.030 266:18 267:6	156 250:13 251:9	1967 294:23
106:14,16 252:4 262:13 307:8 309:2,3 314:16,	268:20,28 269:3,11,23 271:23 272:10,11	157 249:12	1976 136:27,28 138:3
20	124003012360 264:11	158 244:12 245:13	1978 129:24
10-17 309:3	1250.310(d)(1) 280:12	248:7	1985 112:21
	.=00.0.0(4)(1) 200.12	I	1000 (12.2)

1990 137:10

1993 106:7

1998 129:13,14 130:9, 15,19,23 131:7 294:22 295:1,12,18 296:9 297:8

1999 41:13

19th 224:14 253:10 256:27 264:5 275:2 276:25

1:06 249:13

1:15 299:2

1:30 80:15

1st 261:17 267:28 271:2 272:19 276:26 278:6

2

2 36:19 47:23 54:14,16, 17,20 61:25,27,28 67:13 104:24 152:21 239:14 273:15 279:11 295:26 296:26 304:15 319:7

2,000,000 229:14

2,200 193:19

20 13:17 30:22,27 31:21 33:4 43:22 46:25 54:25 56:10 57:6,7 59:24 60:3 61:20 63:4 64:14 70:21 71:9,18 84:23 86:3 92:8 94:1,4,21,22 96:13,20, 24 97:11 98:1,19,26 100:10 140:13 152:14 153:23 155:4,16 156:7, 16 158:19 161:24 177:20,23 187:15 190:10 191:18,19 195:16 198:16 213:15 214:5,12 225:3 227:28 238:25 240:23 254:18 255:28 258:9 260:8 261:25 262:11 282:13 286:22 287:8

20-foot 97:4

20-plus-foot 96:17

20-year 209:1 247:6

20.26 198:16

2000 41:13

2002 13:7,8,11,16

2004 13:6 17:6,22 294:24,25 299:15

2005 137:17,24

2007 11:18

2008 10:16,17 107:28 160:17

2011 298:4

2013 136:25 137:8,27 138:4,10,11,14,18,20, 21 139:1,2

2014 106:8,20 307:14

2015 11:10,15,17,24 15:17 16:14 52:16 55:27 68:3,25 138:9,10, 16,25,27 139:2,10,13 246:21,23

2016 307:15

2017 55:11,19,24 56:5, 14,18,21 307:15,27 308:15

2018 5:14 33:4 38:4 39:20,24 44:14,18 70:6 71:9,17 100:18 140:13... 142:18,20

2019 6:3 38:4 39:20 44:15,26 52:16 221:16 226:16

2020 21:3 33:21 34:16 35:2,24 36:9 38:4 39:20 44:15,19,27 56:14,17, 19,22,24 62:10,18 63:22 75:6 83:22 93:10, 15 97:21 100:18,19,22, 28 105:4 139:22 144:3 157:8 160:7 163:7 164:24 176:13,24 188:19 190:10 191:9 192:10 195:9 196:25 198:8,27 199:8,12 203:8 204:26 205:27 207:14,24 215:20 218:20 221:12 223:11 224:2 228:5 233:4 238:5,6,25 240:23 242:28 244:13 245:14

247:22 248:8,20 249:13,20 252:26 254:18 258:9 260:9 261:17 262:11 267:3,4 268:4,10,17 269:28 273:6 275:17,21,28 276:7,21 285:17,18

2021 49:8 144:4 243:26, 28

2022 5:1 61:2,22 105:9, 11 106:20 107:3,28 108:10 109:17 176:1 274:14 308:25

20th 95:28 236:14 255:2 256:2 258:17 271:20

21 244:13 245:14 247:21 248:8,20 249:13 295:1 299:15

216 292:19

21st 241:25 242:12,13, 14,27 244:5

22 21:3 105:9,11 273:6

2200 92:17,23

229 293:7,12

23 198:27 199:8 303:26

230 291:12

230,000 239:12

23rd 201:22 263:27

24 5:1 249:20 285:17 303:27 304:1

24th 256:28

25 119:27 121:7,13 123:2 142:10 161:10 176:1 303:27

25- 120:3

2500 177:20

26 204:26 205:27 207:14

27 207:24 218:20 242:15 312:9

27th 215:21 217:19

28 203:8

286 317:9,16,20,21,22, 26

286,000 317:11,17,18,

28K 233:18,21

28th 119:9 204:23 219:21

29 48:16 49:13 50:3 53:12 54:10.11 145:26

29-47 51:16 52:1,22 53:1

29-48 51:17

29-5 50:27 51:6 146:2

29-6 51:12

299 124:25 166:23

29th 119:1

2:50 110:13

3

3 13:20 26:12,14 38:8, 16 39:23 41:23,24 43:3 47:23 57:1,10 64:2,3 66:14 70:16 75:20,23, 27 76:26 77:6 79:3 81:2 90:27 104:27 124:15, 16,26 125:22 127:25 128:15,17 147:28 148:3 149:11 166:14 168:4,20 181:10,17,18,22,23,25 182:6,14,27 184:15,27 213:19 293:5 297:10

3,600,000 229:11

3.3 205:19 208:4

3.5 114:21 239:5

3.51 134:20

30 17:26 36:25,27 37:4 39:9 42:16 47:16 48:5,7 87:24 102:12 121:9 123:2 144:12,15 221:12

30,000 161:19 203:20

30-1 39:10

30-10 47:7

30-11 47:7

30-2 39:10	35 18:28	295:20,21 298:9 305:7	8:59 196:25
30-3 43:18	35-year 140:4	5,000,000 205:16 229:8	
30-4 43:18	36 227:28	5-3 305:8	9
30-5 44:21,22	36-and-a-half 98:24 99:7 116:10	5-4 307:5	9 18:23 74:17 93:23 106:2,4
30-6 44:22	37-day 298:5	5.3 305:13	900,000 242:5
30-7 45:22,23	38 82:8	50 160:25	90s 124:22 161:8
30-8 45:23	3rd 119:4,7	50-foot 27:23	91 240:27
30-9 47:6,7	514 115.4,1	53 153:16	
30-day 42:18 30-minute 120:3 123:3	4	5th 120:11	93 208:3 209:3,4 210:16 225:17,19 229:13 240:27
32 67:11,14,15,17 68:26	4 61:21 64:7,10 65:16	6	95490 152:15
72:13 74:20,28 75:1 151:11,12	66:26 74:24,27 75:1 104:2,3 105:2,9,17	6 108:6,7 109:17 252:4	96 137:12
32-1 72:16,18,26 73:17	276:15,21 277:1,15,18 283:16 285:13 297:18	296:12 297:10 298:15	97 137:11,12
32-3 73:15,18 74:15	303:25,28	60 65:22	98 137:11
32-4 67:20	4,000,000 229:7	60,000 161:19 203:20	9:00 320:17
32-88 67:21 68:7	40 18:22 30:26 52:8	60-foot 28:13	9:40 238:25
32.6 122:8	65:22 112:5 122:26 147:24 153:24,28	65 90:22	9:45 222:22
33 30:27 31:3 56:25,26, 27 81:7,9,10 82:16,23,	154:4,7 155:10,14 279:7 286:16 307:23	7	Α
26 83:1,4 96:1 100:16 105:22,25,26 222:28 223:1,9 232:18	40-foot 26:7 400,000 209:20 227:21 239:13	7 53:26 105:4 106:26,28 252:4 300:16,17 303:26 308:22,24	a.k.a. 47:9 a.m. 196:25 242:12
33-1 81:13 83:25 84:5,8 91:24 92:13	41 153:24 155:10,14	70 - 90:23	255:2 258:10 320:17 abandon 132:1 133:6
33-12 100:21	281:25 286:16	72,000 46:1	
33-3 93:9,16	42 283:11,17	76 137:5	abandoned 132:22
33-44 232:27	4252-2020 33:18 34:24	793 299:16	abandonment 132:9
33-46 98:23 99:2	43 234:23		abide 40:16,17,18
232:19,20 233:12 234:24 235:27 236:21	45 122:26,27 123:6 160:25	8	ability 15:15 18:4 27:13 40:1 92:9 94:18 95:20 97:15 103:13 107:18
33-47 232:19 234:24	450,000 206:12	8 107:25	108:26 109:8 231:16
33-49 234:24 235:16	46 235:9	8-and-a-half-by-11 213:10	251:3 259:5 314:28
33-6 93:9	47 232:20 235:10	80 90:23 99:14	abounds 13:15
33-75 223:4,10 228:7	4:05 299:4	80ish 65:23	absolute 278:13
33-76 223:10	4:39 93:17	86 67:26 68:1	absolutely 18:7,8
330,000 208:5	4th 119:4,7	87 67:26 68:1	19:22 21:4 22:10 25:19 28:14,20 29:2,11 57:4
34 18:28 104:7,8,22	5	88 67:26 68:1	71:6 91:5 96:16,27 125:11 160:15,23 161:1
105:22,25,26 34-4 104:12,16	5 151:11,12 187:28	8:39 255:2	219:11 289:27 294:9 297:13 298:14 303:7 311:22 318:19

abuts 76:17,18 96:4

abutt 286:14

accept 123:15

acceptable 185:26 211:17

acceptance 53:19

accepted 71:26 302:27

access 14:14 19:2,3,8 35:11 43:5,8,10 58:4 70:15,16,17,18,25,26 78:18 86:18 91:28 93:3 98:11 143:14 147:17, 20,21,22,23,25 148:5 149:16 161:25 162:24 177:23 184:27 213:5, 14,26 225:4,6 233:15 236:20 286:15,21 312:20 318:22

accessed 76:19 177:21

accessible 66:8 79:20

accessing 178:14

accidents 85:17

accommodate 30:1 46:9,11 59:9 70:13 87:16 97:12 99:26 146:14 149:16 283:6 289:28

accommodates 70:25

accomplish 62:24 216:26

accounting 209:9,10

accurate 79:23 120:15 170:13

accurately 104:3 105:2,10,13,17 106:4, 16,28 107:25 108:7

accusations 53:21

acknowledges 50:24

acquire 21:11,15 54:18 60:8 62:3 63:24 67:9 68:18,24 69:11,24,25 74:18 99:25 100:1 101:16 269:24 279:13

acquired 17:6,7,22

79:28 112:20 147:1,2 178:24 243:12 247:4 281:6

acquires 102:4

acquiring 100:25 103:3 146:12 179:17 198:15

acquisition 62:19 154:10 261:21

acre 123:28 125:26 126:3

acreage 167:22 186:3 190:25

acres 46:1 59:20,24 60:3 63:4 70:3,12 74:17,18 78:21,26 80:2 93:23 97:8 98:24,26 99:7 126:17,19 160:18 161:1 186:5 187:10 188:27 189:5 190:14, 22,24 191:1,18 198:16 227:28 242:4,5

acronym 141:8

act 217:24

action 21:10 34:18 150:14 152:3 218:5,15, 16 219:4,8,13,16 243:13,18,22,25,27 244:20 246:3 250:21 254:10,24 262:17 302:3 308:28

actions 243:21 244:2, 7,9 246:15

activate 88:6

activating 195:17

active 210:26 288:2

actively 244:2 254:9

actively Ermales

activities 30:8

activity 183:24

acts 53:17

actual 30:18 103:4,21 112:18 123:15,18 295:13 319:24

add 227:26 265:13

added 218:22

addendum 34:28

addition 16:23 44:5 56:13 150:21 164:6

additional 85:7 89:8 227:27 237:9 264:21 280:3 305:22 307:4 319:23 320:11

additionally 31:17 70:14 77:11 94:13 200:17 212:17 240:4

address 30:15 86:2 152:14 167:23 196:3 264:22,23 319:18

addressed 8:23 138:28 167:9 246:21 265:4

addresses 30:15

adds 189:18

adequate 62:26 65:25 66:2,4 70:21

adequately 70:13 75:11 148:25 292:10

adhere 141:11

adjacent 19:24 43:22 57:4 63:27 88:1 90:8 94:20 115:9 155:13 198:17 283:2,3 289:7

adjust 229:9

Administers 139:23

Administration 131:18,19

admission 304:5

admissions 303:22 304:15

admitted 36:15 47:21, 25 48:7 54:10 61:28 75:1 105:26 110:4 169:25 170:2,8,27 265:20,25 266:1,7 305:3

admonishment 6:24

adopted 35:23

advance 9:16 11:9,21

advanced 103:16 141:20 advancement 12:15

advances 282:16,17

advancing 59:3 89:23

advantage 230:3 313:23.27 314:3

advertise 194:9

advertisement 181:3

advertising 191:25 194:2 224:27

advice 268:13

advised 272:23

ae 305:19

aerial 212:4 213:6,7 223:17 275:27

affected 137:13,19

affiliation 156:2

affirmative 130:24 267:27 268:1

affirming 5:22

affixed 140:24

afraid 12:1

afternoon 109:14 159:10 216:19

agency 71:16 298:5,18

agenda 33:17 34:14,22

agents 307:17

aggregate 18:12 29:12 31:18,26,27 45:5 144:4, 7 145:22,23 148:11,12, 16 149:10,18,26

Aggregates 32:6 47:9

agree 226:28 230:23 253:19 270:14 277:26

Agreed 248:21

agreement 16:17,24 21:28 22:2 39:28 40:6, 7,13,20,26 41:3,7,8,11, 14,16,18,20,24 42:3,12, 17,22 67:8,23,27,28 68:2,11,13 69:25 77:27 79:5,7,8,10 128:12 133:2,11 310:20 311:5 agreements 40:22 79:17 128:22 311:19

ahead 7:24 10:16 24:27 25:2 42:1 43:17 65:20, 24 76:11 80:14 143:22 169:19 186:1,15 257:27 305:25,26

Alaska 19:18

albeit 30:24

Alder 243:14,27

alerts 88:3

align 168:27

alignment 69:12 76:18 87:4 181:21,22

alive 311:8

allowed 59:22.23

alternative 227:19

alternatives 231:4

aluminium 45:15

aluminum 45:11

amenities 229:17

amortized 140:4

amount 63:9 73:26 143:25 144:5,10 285:8 320:3

Amtrack 79:14

amusement 162:28 163:21,24 164:8,14

amusement/ recreation 194:18

amusement/ recreational 194:26

analyses 244:2

analysis 56:4 60:14 63:21 75:5 82:10 101:5 102:28 204:2,13,15 216:6 220:21 224:6 226:23,24 227:14 240:28 246:26 247:14 248:21 250:1,9,14 251:13 252:6,11,13,17 256:26 257:24 268:24, 28 269:28 270:12,13

analyze 12:13 248:27 250:6 272:5

analyzed 63:25 209:12 246:23,24 259:16 317:14

analyzing 220:14,26 246:14,17 249:3

and/or 18:5 22:11 27:16 38:21 116:12 318:11

anger 253:24

angle 93:4

Anne 68:5

annual 12:24 25:5,6,11

annually 205:18

anxious 203:21

apologize 37:25

appeal 299:13 300:9 301:1

appeared 183:8 194:17

appearing 207:13

appears 111:20 120:9, 11 135:15 136:2,9 146:18 152:10 155:3,17 157:25 160:22 164:24 176:25 179:19 182:4;9; 20 183:8 184:28 188:18 194:1,11 202:20 208:1 209:12 210:9,10,14 218:7 220:6,15 222:5 225:21 227:14 228:11 230:10,14 236:19 239:3,5,18 240:25 246:27 248:14 250:4 251:15 252:11 256:21 257:21 260:22 261:13 293:8 296:3 306:4,12 307:10 309:14,16,19

appellate 299:14

apple 292:4

application 32:25,27 33:1,8,21 34:20 35:27 36:2,4,7,8,17,23 37:5, 27 47:21,24,26,28 72:8 140:12 295:3

applications 44:15,27

71:9.17 72:4

applies 245:4 317:13

apply 308:3 316:3,13 317:20

appraisal 104:10,19,21 254:4,13,20,23 255:26 256:3,5,12,14 260:10, 14 261:14 262:12 271:12 279:22

appraise 104:9 261:24 278:3

appraiser 265:22 268:1

appreciation 209:7

approach 10:8 14:10 25:10 62:22 199:23 202:15,18

approaches 178:8

appropriately 162:28 163:20,22

approximate 64:25 65:14,21 79:4

approximately 57:6 112:5 114:16 119:1 121:9 122:8,12,23 123:6,25 129:23 133:27 144:7 187:10 192:6 224:5 246:22 262:13

archaic 35:13

architect 63:18 67:19 103:14 276:11

area 15:26 18:23,27 46:22 47:2 55:17 57:9 58:9 64:13 69:13 70:19 72:21 78:7,24 79:26 88:17,22 89:17 92:23, 26 99:19 124:3,4,7 125:23,24 126:2,7,8,9, 15,18,22 128:23 129:6 131:26 134:22 142:14 153:12,15 156:14,15 162:5,11 163:9,13 165:5 181:20 182:5,15, 16 183:23 184:1 209:24 211:4 213:16 222:20 225:9 226:2,4,11 227:8, 22 228:1,23,25 229:2 234:11,12 237:6 249:27

251:23 276:13 286:5,21 302:8 309:17

areal 154:18 170:4

areas 146:21 246:12

argue 316:11

argument 315:6

arguments 265:4

arises 218:4

arms 86:25

arose 138:1

arrangement 205:21 217:27 310:13,23

arrangements 20:16

arrive 40:13,17 133:19

ASAP 203:22

ascent 178:6

aspect 24:14

aspects 72:23 296:18 297:23,25

assent 94:1 96:21

assertive 215:10

assess 261:26

assessment 192:8 221:10 268:18

assessor 153:8

assets 17:7 247:4

assist 69:2 140:28 164:7

assisted 140:10,11

Association 48:22 49:7

assume 61:4 302:21 303:4

assumes 274:21

assuming 38:5

AT&T 298:3

attach 225:3

attached 47:20 110:1 221:13 235:7 249:28 250:7

attachments 221:14 attempt 68:13,14

attempting 154:4 attention 159:2 227:27

attorney 5:22

attorney/client 261:5

attract 220:3

attractive 16:10 191:25

audio 6:28

August 5:1 100:18,19 119:1 138:15,21 171:10 176:1 252:26 253:10 254:18 255:2 256:2 258:9,17 260:8 262:11 264:5 267:4 271:20

authenticate 8:20

authoritatively 301:25

authority 40:11 41:5 71:23 101:15 141:9 295:4 310:14

authors 49:2

automobiles 94:24

availability 180:28

average 229:14

avid 161:17

avoid 216:25

aware 18:7 32:23 55:12 84:2 132:2 192:1 210:17,21 215:11 218:14 235:27 278:27 295:18 300:28 301:11

awful 189:18

axles 90:23

В

back 5:5 9:6 10:15 12:28 16:13 17:5 18:26 20:7 22:6 35:12,13 43:13 45:17,23 48:13 55:26 56:27 60:18 61:18,24 62:21 64:17 69:28 70:15 72:13 78:5 80:18 90:16 92:18,27

96:15 97:17 98:9 109:3 110:15 114:11,24 119:16 120:5.6.7 122:16 125:12,20 138:20 143:18 149:26 156:22 161:26,28 164:3 176:4 187:12 189:9 190:9 193:1 198:19 199:4 200:7 203:27 206:9 217:18 219:27 222:24 232:14 236:6,9 239:27 255:15 258:1 262:9 283:15 289:22 299:4,6 309:2 312:16, 17,25 313:9,10 316:22 320:15

backlog 23:18 29:5

backs 93:22 160:19

backwards 9:8

backyards 187:15

Baechtel 76:20

Baldo 45:24,27

ball 28:22

ballast 52:23

band 90:26

bank 17:6

bankruptcy 17:8,10

bare 201:11 220:10,19 231:21,22 282:27 283:2

bargain 209:20

barrier 66:21 78:4,11, 14 94:8,9 95:19 97:1,5, 12 98:7 100:5 161:28

barriers 57:26 66:14, 18,23,25 178:14 200:25 211:24 240:2,10 282:26

base 90:27 96:24

based 23:24 52:24 64:28 90:22 115:14 129:9 130:23 131:10 137:6 143:6 145:28 155:25 158:21 160:11, 12 161:7 165:2,21 168:16 179:19 187:25 194:13,17 197:25 198:2 203:2 204:5 206:24 207:4,17,18 214:19 218:18 220:18 224:3 225:8 226:1,6 229:14 230:14,18 236:3 241:2, 13 248:28 259:14,16 269:6 287:23 292:21 313:25 316:18 319:27

basic 16:26

basically 8:19 68:21 73:28 128:15 152:1 224:14 248:26 306:28

basin 135:22 136:6,16

basis 19:13 31:23 104:10 113:7 142:11 179:23 233:27 312:25 318:6

bay 126:10

beautiful 179:9

bed 286:5

Beds 39:11,17 43:13 44:11,13 144:16,22 145:1

beer 45:7,8,16

began 142:19 224:6 266:23 275:26

begin 103:21 260:25 261:28

beginning 41:28 48:2 151:1 188:18

begins 94:1

behalf 33:2 36:5,9,22 144:18 145:17 261:24, 27

belief 187:9 218:23 315:27

believes 297:7,21

below-described 273:17 279:13

benches 136:13

beneficial 99:24

benefit 247:11 277:23 281:4 284:19

benefits 49:25 50:3,7, 11,20,21,24 51:13 85:28 217:28 218:15

berm 135:20,21

bet 178:21

bidirectional 45:13

big 13:9 21:16 27:18,19 80:10,11 98:21 123:25 126:15 138:1 144:13 186:3 222:27 227:9 276:14 305:7

bigger 179:6

biggest 195:16

bike 91:3 140:22,23,24, 27 141:13,14,15,16

bikes 87:19 90:5 140:20,28 141:2,4,22, 24 142:7,9,13,17,18 180:16 191:22 192:14 196:7,8

bill 227:9

billboard 194:8

billboards 180:15,17, 23,27 181:8

billing 73:1 186:17

binder 56:15 110:20 111:7 144:13 152:6 197:16 222:28 236:6,7 276:14 280:2 303:16 305:7 308:18

bisects 225:2

bit 9:6 18:14 23:8 42:23 64:6 70:20 78:17 129:2 177:19 213:3 254:19,27 260:17

black 64:15

blacked 261:1

Blair 114:11,14,18,20, 23

Blake 310:22 311:8

Blanch 177:21

blind 96:14 98:19

block 5:11 6:7,10,13, 15,22,28 7:25 8:11,24, 28 9:5 25:26 26:17 33:10,12,14,16,24,27 34:2,5,7 36:11,16 47:16,22 48:1,8,11,14

50:18 53:12.28 54:9.12 61:24 62:1,6,8 67:15 74:20,24 75:3 76:10 80:13,21 105:21 106:1 109:10,13 110:2,5,7 111:10 118:7 124:14 132:12 143:18,21,27 150:22 151:12 153:3 169:23,28 170:6,20,23 171:12 185:9 186:27 187:6 198:4,21 203:6 212:1 236:9 245:18,26, 27 247:22 254:21 256:3,8,10,13,18,21 257:19,23 260:22,25 261:2 264:7,11,25 265:5,11,18,23 266:1,3 269:14 270:11 272:8 274:20 280:3,13 284:1 285:28 301:13 303:4,8 304:7,21,25 308:22 311:21,26 312:2 313:17 316:5,15 320:27 321:1

Block's 150:25

blocked 260:21

Blosser 39:1 87:5

blow 63:15

blown 68:17

blue 54:20,23 76:8 77:26,28 78:28 110:20 111:7 127:28 128:7,16 147:28 148:2 152:5 154:24 155:12,13 226:8,9 236:7 242:2

board 9:18,22,23,25 10:19,22,23,28 11:7 13:20 19:28 25:22 41:19 102:8 124:11 131:9,12,28 132:5,8,20 133:5 141:17 168:4 223:26 293:5

boarder 183:18

boarding 237:2

Bob 67:19

body 212:12

bold 212:18,23 239:10 250:14 307:21 309:6

bond 88:25 89:23 90:21

bonded 91:1

bonds 89:12

book 41:24

border 153:21 184:28

borders 54:24

boss 223:24

bottles 45:16

bottling 45:12

bottom 128:16 156:25 157:6 176:14,28 188:17,18 195:8 198:26 216:3 218:20 225:24 242:13 244:12 249:12 250:16 251:9 253:27 295:21 309:23 314:16,

bought 71:27 160:17

box 90:11,12 240:7 317:21,22

boxcar 39:15

boxcars 29:17 39:16

boxes 118:20

boy 31:10 152:8

Bragg 5:16,18 8:15 14:23 15:3 18:2,21.... 20:12 24:18,20,21 25:15,28 26:2 30:28 31:19,20 33:2,20 34:15 35:9,23 36:5,8 37:23 38:15 39:17 43:23 45:15,17 49:28 52:8,10 53:1 63:2,3,20 65:15,19 71:13 111:23,27 112:24 113:1,23,28 114:1,12, 19,25,28 119:13 121:15 133:20,28 140:10,11 141:23,24,26,28 142:7 243:15,19 246:15 306:4,11 309:15 310:14,27 312:2,14,16, 17,25

Bragg's 5:21

breadth 66:27

break 48:9 80:13 110:9 135:23 171:1 222:17,22 254:16 257:26.28

299:2,3

Brewing 44:23 45:1 78:3 145:11

bridge 66:20 92:27 94:11 95:22,23,24 98:8, 12 134:13,16,20,21,28 135:1,2,7,10 233:16 317:9 319:26

bridges 98:9 293:20 317:8,11,16,22,24,25

briefing 54:5

briefings 26:27

briefly 27:9 83:27 159:5 222:6 223:6 299:21

briefs 265:4,8

bring 21:23 25:12 176:18 190:6 237:22 281:19

bringing 61:12 257:23

broad 40:25 147:15

Broaddus 93:18,22 97:2

broader 161:26

brochure 104:28

broken 15:11

brought 137:21 190:22 256:10,21

budget 13:1

budgeting 203:13,16, 28 204:14

budgets 12:21,24 13:9

build 12:28 16:1,3,6,8 31:15 32:25,27 33:1,21 34:21 36:8,22 37:5,27 44:24,27 70:6 71:1,8,17 72:3,8 87:13 93:4 98:25 101:22 102:6 140:12 144:26 191:21 192:12 196:15 227:7 229:13 230:7 274:6 312:3

build-a-grant 44:15

building 16:11,12 17:4 22:11,13 24:5,10 26:5,6 62:26 63:20 64:26 66:1

69:8,9 72:26,28 73:17 78:6 80:3 102:17 103:23 127:5,7,13,14, 16 149:22,23 167:16,18 185:20,27 186:27 187:3,5 196:14 210:25 227:10 229:27 289:2,4

buildings 69:11 103:15 183:9 197:4 199:22 210:22 211:11 214:6,9

built 17:24 18:1 24:21 109:5 137:20 142:18 164:4 177:5 247:17

bullet 82:13 250:16,25 251:10,24,26,28 252:3

Burkhart 20:2,3,7

burn 189:1

burned 177:22

burner 203:27

Burton 65:6

bus 71:24 298:17,20

business 9:17 11:9 12:2,3,11,15 16:6 17:13,18 18:9 21:17 22:25 31:24,25 60:21 69:20 74:9 75:7 81:17 83:14 84:28 107:17,18 115:9 157:14 166:18 209:1 216:10 220:11 238:9,21 239:9 240:1,4, 5 246:28 247:2,8,11 251:24 253:17 277:4,7, 10 281:17 290:28 298:20

businesses 14:4 37:2, 3,8,10 87:23 107:19 187:16 281:16,17 282:14,16

button 88:1,5,13 91:4, 8,20 156:8,13 191:28 195:17,23 197:2

buy 160:7 178:21 196:2 201:7 217:21 227:20 310:1,9,24

buyer 197:5

buying 178:21 216:24 229:22 230:16

bypassed 299:2

C

C.R. 18:1

cabins 18:20 211:12,14

Cal 295:1

Cal.4th 53:26

Cal.app.4th 299:16

calculated 12:1

calendar 118:12 123:8

California 6:4 9:8 10:11,26 17:7,22 21:27 30:13 38:15 40:10,17 41:9 48:21,24 49:6,17 50:5 52:7,16 54:3 92:22 106:6,18 107:2 108:9 109:16,20 111:1,14,24 112:18,19 113:4,10,12, 15,19 115:20,22,25,28 118:13,15 123:22 124:2,18,21 126:19,25 127:24,25 128:9 129:3, 15 130:12,19 131:3 133:18,19,20 134:3 137:7 143:25 144:9,28 145:2,9,12,20,23 148:3, 7,9 152:15 154:27 181:1.4 184:16 193:24 198:16 241:8 247:4 261:23,25 266:17 291:12 292:11,18,21,27 293:4,7,25 294:28 295:4 296:4,13,21 300:28 316:3

California's 33:20

call 112:13,22 136:4 144:5 166:2 177:21 189:9 190:15 202:5 211:13 241:17 275:4

called 52:3 90:5 112:14 140:20 143:13 155:26 182:23 263:11 266:13, 17 291:3,12 307:26 312:20

calling 235:10

calls 51:20 164:11 253:1 270:11,13 284:1 316:15,17

Caltrans 48:22 54:4 145:28 147:11

camp 19:9,11 20:23 84:9,11,25 158:11,12, 16,23,25 167:21 177:4 191:11

campers 209:18 220:3

campground 94:5
98:4 100:10,12 101:8,
11,13,17,21,22 102:6,
17 155:18,22,26
164:17,25 165:4 205:25
209:12 210:15 212:8
213:5 226:3,5,7,25
227:10 233:15 236:20
240:5 247:25 250:5
251:14,16,20 274:17,25
275:3 276:28 277:3,26
290:9,12,13

campgrounds 101:27 277:7,8

camping 162:27 163:17 193:6,7,8,9,11 209:4 210:16 211:4,13 251:11

camps 20:14,15 143:8

campus 25:15

cancelled 42:22 68:21

cans 45:16

canvas 201:10

Canyon 46:1

cap 216:25 252:3,4,6

capability 73:27

capacity 20:25 23:5 317:7

capitalize 230:3

caps 230:24

capture 171:7

car 23:4 27:16,18,21,27 29:2,21,26 30:3 58:13 59:1,2 85:24 87:13 88:16 127:20 135:10 138:1,2 148:14,20 191:21 192:13,19 213:26 263:4 284:15 305:16,27,28 306:5,10, 11,13,23,26 317:17,19

car/side 305:28 306:13

card 310:24.26

cardboard 45:10

care 189:21

career 102:13

cargo 27:14 45:12

carloads 51:24 52:16 58:27 144:4

carried 18:25 144:4

carrier 40:8 71:20 88:11 146:16,17 147:3, 21,22 291:24,27,28 292:2,7,26,28 293:2,5 300:21 301:28

carriers 22:1

carry 27:13 145:1,8,12, 19,23 312:15 315:19

carrying 117:9,11 144:6,27

cars 16:6 17:4 22:12, 14,16,28 23:4,5,7,10, 13,16,19,20,22,24,26 25:23 27:23,24 28:3 29:28 30:24 44:6 46:3 52:23,26 58:18,19,20, 21,22,24 59:3 96:13 127:15 288:27 305:11, 12,15,25,27 306:16 307:1,3

cart 127:10

case 13:10,16 45:11 51:10,14 72:20 86:1 105:7 201:4 244:14,16, 23,26 245:1,3,6,7,8,10 246:10 262:22 278:13 280:16 299:13 301:8,12 314:24

cases 18:3 24:22 25:7 44:10 114:5,6,9 117:16 264:6,8,22 309:13

cash 217:23 239:5

catalyst 230:26

catch 136:20,21

catchment 135:22

136:6.16

categories 226:18

caused 230:21

CDF 177:4

ceased 298:16

cede 79:14

ceiling 138:5,6

center 69:9 127:17

central 30:13 115:8,9, 10 227:25 284:21

CEO 9:9,26,28 10:4,6 11:2 12:5,27 44:23 55:14 61:10 81:14 158:14 218:14 223:25

certainty 42:21 278:13

certification 25:7

certifications 25:11

cetera 51:25 162:25 228:2 229:12,17 230:7

chain 157:5 164:16 222:16

chains 100:16 156:20

chairman 41:18

challenge 30:16

challenges 30:20 55:4

chance 159:16,25

change 21:7 58:3 99:13 100:11,15 122:9 156:1,4 211:26 237:13 249:3 319:9,11

changed 13:17 70:2 230:27 276:28

Chao 144:19

characteristics 57:17 60:15

characterize 13:13 162:3 320:8

characterized 68:17

charged 16:19

chases 255:4

checking 317:21

chief 82:1 102:7 216:7 217:10

choose 120:5 254:2 267:19

Chris 45:24 81:16 157:8,11,13 207:23 216:5,8,10 217:20,24 218:12 219:2,22 222:11 233:3 272:3

Christopher 81:16 191:10

circle 42:1 100:11,14 153:16 185:7,17 234:8

circled 79:3 100:10 185:9,10

circles 128:20,23

circling 57:8

circuit 88:15,16,17,25, 28 89:3,11,13,14,17,21

circulate 28:18

circumstances 208:7

cities 18:1

citing 87:10

city 5:16,17,21 8:14 33:2,20 34:15,17 35:9, 23 36:4,8 37:23 38:14 68:19 70:19 72:10 140:9,11 299:14 312:2

city's 35:11

Civil 264:14,15 266:17 280:11

claim 180:7 279:2 291:23

clarification 304:8

clarify 38:10 116:23 144:24 185:2 187:8 212:14 264:13 278:14 285:5 312:24 319:12

class 25:11 51:22 52:9, 13,24 146:20,24,25 147:3,5,17,21,22 293:5 317:26 319:5,7

classes 25:17,18,22

classroom 25:4,16,25

classrooms 25:14

clean 201:10

cleanest 205:22

cleaning 16:20

clear 32:18 91:4 116:22 124:14 151:7 167:28 316:1

cleared 89:24

clearer 248:4

clerk 6:11,14,20 7:3,7 24:26,28 33:13 118:1,4, 6 134:8 263:21,24,27 299:1

clock 217:23

close 18:8 80:12 98:24 99:3 249:1

closed 14:3 15:22 159:12

closer 100:14

closest 69:12 100:10

closing 165:14 265:4,8

closure 310:12 311:17

Cloverdale 179:18 189:18

coaches 224:27,28

coast 40:11 41:4,5 44:23 45:1 55:15 78:2 94:2 96:22 145:11 178:7

coast-bound 179:12

coastal 6:4 31:28

cobbled 14:1

code 90:13,16 218:1 264:14 266:17 280:11 291:12 292:19 293:7 295:28 296:28

cohesiveness 61:12 190:6 281:20

collaborate 102:9

colleague 12:4,27 13:2 61:9 249:26

colleagues 11:7 75:7 81:11,12 102:9 180:13 276:3

collectively 61:19 118:23 204:10 302:4

college 25:15,17

column 305:16,18,22

combination 130:20

commence 102:19

comment 32:22 91:6 204:3 242:23,26 244:21 252:1 264:20

comments 7:28 50:19 164:3 189:22 230:18 237:9 242:21 251:24 252:10 259:24

commercial 42:27 76:6 86:9,16,18,20 115:4 124:25 125:18 133:7,8,9 166:23

commission 6:5 109:17,20 294:28 295:25 296:4,15,17,22, 24 297:18 298:10,16 299:15

commit 247:28

committee 264:20

commodities 29:14 51:26 149:17

commodity 23:4 27:15,23,25 28:15,28 29:8 30:17,18 31:13 39:14 45:4 58:28

common 20:11 21:28 22:1 23:9 40:8 71:19 88:11 113:15,17,18 208:14,27 241:24 250:28 251:6 291:24, 26,28 292:1,7,26,27 293:1,5 300:21 301:28

commonly 71:24 78:1

communications 83:19 149:22

communities 17:25 109:5,6 164:5

community 15:10

102:11,12 247:20 277:11 282:18

commute 18:18 71:9, 11,16 106:19,21 307:12,14,18,26 308:8, 16 310:8 311:28

commuter 295:5 310:1,9 313:18,22,27 314:4 318:16

commuters 318:13

commutes 313:21

companies 13:6,11 31:5,6 32:26 44:18 45:20 50:13 82:5 146:20 300:4

company 9:15,16,26 10:5,6 11:8,14 12:5,28 18:23 32:5,18,19 39:1, 12 43:19 44:24 45:25 46:7,10,13,17 47:1 53:5,6,26 55:14 60:21 61:10 81:11,15,21,25 82:2,3,5 87:16 93:12 102:8,10 112:17,20 144:16 145:12,16,19 150:24 151:23 152:3,11 153:1 157:15,17,20,21 158:2,6,15 202:6 218:7 223:26 227:3 231:2 268:9

company's 45:1 224:18

comparable 178:2 188:28 240:26 241:3,7

comparables 241:11

compared 241:9

comparing 220:22

comparison 231:14

compass 57:6 69:11

compatible 271:24 272:6,28 281:7 282:8, 20 283:13,20,27

compensated 284:25

compensation 68:8, 10 279:23,28

compete 94:25

competed 248:22

complaint 105:6 235:4, 7,22 273:5,20,26,27 274:1,2,9,17,25 279:12 315:22

complete 89:13 226:16 255:24 260:14 304:17

completed 49:11

completely 40:22 69:21 240:6 276:27 288:26

complex 11:20 25:16 142:1

complexities 220:12

compliant 317:16,22, 24,25

complications 13:23

complied 270:16

comply 271:14

complying 88:10

components 22:7,24 90:11

computer 89:1

computers 90:8

concept 62:14

Conceptional 249:11

conceptual 235:11,19, 28 238:14

concern 191:24 272:8

concerned 91:17,20, 22 135:13 137:26 149:3 150:24 152:3 163:16 219:10 267:12 273:21 297:2

concluded 297:19

conclusion 270:13 284:2 316:16,18

Conclusions 298:22

concrete 73:7 127:17

condemnation 250:20

conditions 239:7 266:18 267:6 268:20 269:11 317:26 **conducive** 25:12 70:17 78:15 214:14

conduct 27:26 38:8,11, 13 43:1 83:15 148:9 202:6 314:28

conducted 14:22 80:4

conducting 24:15

conductor 19:25 141:17

conference 66:2

configuration 97:18

configure 239:15

confirmation 89:4

conforms 63:5

confused 186:6

congestion 283:4

conjunction 48:23 206:2 221:5 233:8

connect 18:1 46:28 146:19,23 147:5

connected 73:1,2

88:25

connecting 66:10 252:27

connection 46:16 80:8 90:21 91:2 146:27 293:23 294:3

cons 219:28

consideration 56:1 58:6,16,17 83:5 85:9, 25,26 92:2,4,5 96:3 177:15 180:3 188:11 191:4 220:9 254:12 288:23

considerations 94:13 209:26 259:22

considered 75:26 81:3 115:8 124:28 125:2,25 134:23 135:27 147:4 148:15 192:2,27 195:28 218:1 241:7 262:24 272:24 297:22

considers 244:28

consist 142:24,27

143:1 212:15 279:19 312:12

consistent 49:22 50:23 55:3 118:21 146:10 152:27 194:28 214:28 220:3 226:10 232:24 239:28 241:26 242:10 272:26 276:9 280:7 287:3 290:14,21 315:14

consists 279:14

constantly 25:13

constitute 295:26 296:27 297:3,4,7

constituted 296:5

constraints 100:2 259:14 282:25,26

constricted 274:10

construct 51:9 73:13 79:27 101:17 104:4 105:3,11,18 273:22 315:13

constructed 46:28 66:27 80:6 108:28 115:13 274:18

constructing 24:2 55:4 86:11 101:12 ---230:16

construction 17:15 57:14,18 96:27 103:4, 22 136:7,17 161:13 259:28 314:22.26

consultants 103:19

consummates 66:11

CONT 258:2

contact 100:24 190:15, 16,18 197:10 205:24 253:5 257:19

contacted 260:25 261:2

contained 49:13 50:3 67:12

container 26:6,7 125:6

contemplate 39:18 53:6 71:15 73:26 206:9 236:23 247:6 274:3

contemplated 15:25 71:8 72:2 92:3 256:17

contemplating 57:14 200:7 206:24

contemplation 298:6

contempt 253:22,24

contiguous 183:27

continually 301:27

continue 20:6 101:24 107:8 108:15 177:7 179:5 277:11 281:14 282:2 296:10 316:27

continued 14:4 187:22,23 215:7 237:20

continues 89:12 135:14 216:12

continuing 9:16 11:21 67:20 139:3

continuous 320:7

continuously 106:11, 23 108:3

contract 16:16 63:9 68:20,22 128:10

contractor 103:11 139:7

contradict 91:9

contrary 315:26

control 131:13

controlled 131:16 294:4

controls 128:25

convenient 273:19 279:15

conversation 12:16 76:3 82:12 101:24 154:9 156:13 162:21 165:10 179:28 191:3 201:3,19 206:24,28 215:7 230:27 237:14, 19,28 238:1 241:27 245:28 251:7 253:7,8, 10 256:11,22 276:2

conversations 12:20 75:7,8 83:21,22 97:26 151:27 165:26,27,28 166:1 190:5 204:21 205:4,28 206:3,18 215:17 216:1 237:17 255:6,12,16 268:11 280:24 287:17

convert 237:6 290:11, 12

converted 20:21

convey 203:24

conveyance 29:20

copied 157:25 158:3,8

copies 6:1,2

copy 35:22 36:7 223:14 263:17 264:9 314:11

core 11:22 12:9 18:8

corner 64:12 76:5,15 79:20 181:25

corners 70:20

corporate 10:28

corporation 73:23 290:24,26,28 291:1,13, 21 293:3 302:1

correct 5:24 6:6 9:11. 19.20 10:2,13,14 16:23 21:1,5,12,13 23:12 26:13,18 27:28 28:2,7, 9,11,17 29:16,18,22 32:13,15,28 33:5 35:18, 22 36:7 37:8,9,24 38:1 39:7 41:10 42:28 43:4, 7,9,12,25 44:12 45:18, 21 46:21 49:24 50:1 53:11 54:21 61:3 62:16 67:6,10 71:3 72:12,15 73:14 76:7,9 77:17 83:18 87:11 93:12 95:4, 14 99:12 100:19,22 101:6 110:25,27,28 111:3,4,18,22,25 112:6, 25,27 113:6,25,26 114:4,7,8,9,22 115:5,6, 23,26 116:14,17,24,25, 27 117:1,8,15,25 119:11 120:12,20 121:4,10,11,13,19,20 122:1,14 123:5,19 124:4,5,7,8 127:5,6,26, 27 128:2,3,7,8,12,13, 19,24,26 129:20,24

130:4,5,10,14,15,17,23 131:11,21,25 132:6,7, 11.24.25 133:14,20.24 134:1,2,5,26,27 135:2, 3,28 136:3,25 137:1,6 138:7,23 139:14,17 140:7,8,20,21 142:5 143:9.16.17.24 144:9. 21 145:6,7 146:11,25, 26 147:7,9,12,13,16,24, 28 148:1,5,23 149:7 150:6,7,9,15,16,17 152:4 154:4,5,19,21,25 155:1,2,19,25 156:9 157:18,23,26,27 158:7, 10 160:9,24 161:2,10 162:2,4 163:10,13,15, 18 164:26 165:1,7,17, 20 166:20,25 176:25 179:1,21,26 180:1,16, 25 181:12 182:6 184:12 185:6 187:26 188:9,14 190:3,25 191:2 192:18, 26 194:4,12,23 198:17 199:12 200:15 202:1,8, 26 203:1 204:8,28 205:9,23,26 206:5 207:14,18 209:8,13,14 210:13,14 211:12 212:9,19,20 213:2,17 214:15,16,28 217:4,11, 14 218:6,17 220:8,17, 24,28 221:1,3,4,9,25,.... 26,28 222:1 223:12,18, 24 224:7,20,21 225:12 227:6,11,16,17 228:8, 17,20,27 229:3,27 230:12,17,22 231:8 232:16,21 233:8,11 234:3,18 235:17 237:22 239:20,22 240:18,20 241:1,2,5,13,22 242:20 243:2,19,20 244:3,24 245:12 246:7.8.12.19. 20 247:1,13,24 250:2, 22 252:7,14,15,18,19 254:9.11 255:23 256:4. 15,23 257:4,12,13,19, 23 261:15,16,18 262:14,20 267:10,16 268:3,14,23 269:7 274:6,10,15,19 275:18, 22,23 276:22 277:1,19, 20 278:1,7 279:16 280:5,12 285:18 286:2

13,20,22 295:15,17 296:5,6 297:8,12,14,21, 23,28 298:24,26 301:2 306:5,10,14,15,24,27 307:10 308:2,6,25,26 309:1,7,11,26 310:6,7, 11 311:3 312:26 313:7, 8,11,13,19,23,24 314:6 316:1,6,12 317:6,12,24 318:3,28 319:11,16,21,

correctly 82:11 183:27 286:17

correspondence 56:5,23 81:27 82:8

correspondences 81:10 82:20 93:10

corridor 18:20 38:19 43:22 54:25 57:4,5 63:28 76:18 78:14 95:2 181:21,23 282:14 283:25

cost 30:22 177:15 196:14,15 201:7,13,16, 17 218:22 226:20,22,24 229:14 230:5 252:17

costs 30:22 229:15,16, 22 230:15 260:1

counsel 6:11 7:24 8:8

34:18 35:23 53:27 69:2
81:18 150:21,22,25
151:1 153:1 158:1
200:11 245:25 261:4
267:1,20 268:12,13
269:4,9 270:6,8 271:11
272:1,20,22,23 280:25
311:24 320:18

counsel's 270:28

count 87:9

counted 166:16

counties 247:17

counting 89:2 243:22

Countless 20:2

country 27:12,14 241:4 284:22

county 45:28 46:11 47:13 49:27 71:21 130:16,18,22,28 131:4 147:18 152:12 163:25 180:14,24 193:24,25 233:27 300:1

County's 194:26

couple 15:21 20:10 41:22 78:21 137:4 182:10 183:8 189:7 217:21 222:21 238:16 281:14 282:12 284:28 288:21,22 302:13 316:27

coupled 58:20,25

court 5:4,8 6:9,17,21, 26 7:1,5,9,11,14,18,21, 23 8:8,18 9:3 17:10 24:25,27 25:2 26:16 33:9,11 36:13 47:18,20, 24 48:5,10,13 50:17 53:27 54:7,11 61:27 67:14 74:22,27 76:8 80:12,14,18 105:23,25 109:12,21,24,26 110:6, 10,13,15 117:26 118:10 124:16 132:13,16,18,26 133:1,12,15 143:22 151:9 165:21 168:10 169:1,11,24 170:1,7,11, 17,24 171:1,5,16 176:4, 20 184:9 186:6,15,19, 25 187:4 197:18,26 222:19,24 235:9 257:27 258:1,12,14 261:4 263:18,22,25 264:1,10, 26 265:3,8,16,19,24 266:2,5 269:18 270:14 271:3.5.7 272:12.15 274:22,24,27 276:10 279:7,8 280:17 283:10 284:27 285:4,11 299:1, 6,13,28 300:9 301:1,5, 18,22,26 302:7,11,19, 21,28 303:4,7,24 304:3, 5,13,19,23,28 310:19, 28 311:4,12,18,25 312:1,4,8 313:15 314:12.24 315:6.22.25 316:17,23 320:13,15,28 321:2

courts 315:15

cousin 205:14

cover 227:8 229:16

288:9,10,12,18 294:12,

coverage 226:22

covered 65:21 72:20 97:22 237:7 246:4 255:9

COVID 251:11,20 277:6

CPR 141:21

CPUC 5:14,17 8:12,17, 26 88:10 195:18 296:10,19

CPUC's 300:11

CR 12:5,27 51:20 53:5 55:14 61:10 81:14,20, 21,24 82:5 157:14,16, 19,21 158:2,6,14 223:25

crack 253:3 257:17

crafted 48:22 144:16

Craig 177:4

cranes 289:1

create 31:4 42:20 206:15 231:17

created 41:18 72:10 105:12 164:17 274:13 306:6.7

creates 95:2

creating 28:22 30:17 164:25 229:22

creation 65:2

creative 12:6 13:14 70:10 165:10

credit 139:27

creek 66:19,21 76:20 78:4,7 92:26 93:22 94:9 97:2 98:8 118:24 134:4 136:3,5,19 143:4,10,11 160:19 162:1 211:23 226:3,8 285:25 287:9

crews 15:2,3,14 24:12, 23 25:6 136:18 139:4

criminal 183:24

criteria 272:23

critically 85:12

critique 49:4,5

Croply 39:3 46:24 47:3 87:7

cross 86:18 96:14

CROSS-EXAMINATION

110:16 176:8 258:2

crossbucks 86:25

crossed 78:5

crosses 64:14 94:1,4 98:1

crossing 39:1,2,3 54:26 85:3,7,8 86:3,13, 16,20,21,22,24,27 87:2, 5,7,19,28 88:4,12,20,21 89:24,25 90:9 91:4,18, 22 92:27 96:20 156:7 177:22 191:17,23 192:14 284:9,13,14

crossings *85:13;27 86:5,8,10 87:9 88:11,13

166:15 284:12

crosswalk 88:1

crowd 161:18

Crowley 117:22,24 122:8.18

current 109:7 123:26 166:19 193:27 226:19 227:23 239:7 318:20

cursory 217:7

curve 94:20 96:12 98:19

custodian 109:16,19

customer 31:17 47:11

customers 23:17,19 30:21 70:7 146:21

cut 58:22 94:10 155:11 212:6 213:15 314:20

cutoff 213:6,7

cuts 58:18 59:4

cutter 56:11 77:12 81:6 93:18,19,20 94:7 95:16 96:11,19 107:21 159:20,23,26 160:10 168:24 169:12,17 178:11,14,18,22,28 179:2 189:9,10 209:27, 28 210:1,4,8

CWR 30:7 42:23,26 46:28 73:23 79:2,25 112:19,22,24,28 113:3, 23

CWRR 295:24 296:5 298:11,23,25

CWRR's 295:26 296:27 297:2,11

D

daily 31:23 142:11 312:25

Dan 37:15

dark 134:22 186:9 234:7

darker 64:15 213:11

dash 35:2

date 56:20 69:28 195:8 203:6 224:3 235:21 243:12,16 296:9

dated 34:16 44:14 100:22 109:17 157:8 176:12,24 188:19 190:10 191:9 196:25 198:8,26 204:25 207:24 216:4 218:20 219:21 221:12 223:11 233:3 236:14 238:25 240:23 244:13 245:14 249:20 252:26 254:18 258:9 260:8 261:17 262:11 295:1 299:15

dates 106:12,24 108:4 120:16,17,18 250:14

Dave 81:19 158:3 191:10

David 7:3,10

Dawn 182:24

day 14:26 19:4,18 73:3 120:27 188:27 232:17 237:19 241:10 247:18 263:25 284:10 305:15 308:12 312:28 313:18

day-to-day 10:9 12:25

days 42:16 45:11 120:9,10,20,23 121:1 123:12 180:15 187:18 238:16 243:1 262:13 270:18 281:14 282:12 284:28 302:13,14 308:12 315:24 317:3

dead 22:23

deal 15:18 94:25 137:22 207:3 219:3 253:17 301:24

Dear 198:14

decade 166:28

decades 188:7 195:26

December 5:14 21:3 105:9,11 273:6

decent 161:12

decide 248:10,11,17 254:3

decided 62:18 247:24 257:22

deciding 91:16 103:12 180:3

decision 63:22,23 180:18 204:4,7,10 224:18,20 231:23 239:18 240:9 247:26 250:5 256:22 267:22,24 294:28 295:9,11,15,18, 20 296:3 299:17,24,27 300:9,12,16,24 301:16, 17 302:18

decision-making 179:25

decisions 102:10 265:6

declaration 109:15,22 110:2

decrease 313:3

dedicated 102:13

deducted 53:20

deem 54:8

Defendant 110:21 266:13 303:17

defendant's 236:9

265:5

deferred 148:12

deficiencies 25:28 26:2

deficiency 26:23

deficient 15:19

define 148:19 293:8 301:8 304:13

defined 186:21 292:8 293:12,18 301:3,5,12 309:25

defines 79:4 291:13 292:19 293:20

definite 100:15

definition 273:21 292:1.9.10 294:1

definitions 304:11

delay 206:16

delayed 23:3

delivery 23:20 38:13

demand 31:22

demands 24:22 109:7 281:15

demurrage 23:22,23

denoted 234:5

depart 116:12 141:24, 26,28 142:7,9,13 178:5 284:10 312:13

departing 116:19 141:22 196:10 319:6

department 34:20 139:23 144:20 145:5,16 320:21

departs 113:23,28 114:12

departure 118:20 141:5

departures 121:28

depend 19:3 27:25

dependant 89:16

dependent 88:21

depending 40:22 88:16 102:24

depends 27:22

depict 124:26

depicted 26:12 57:1 63:28 65:16 66:26 69:10 72:25 73:22 74:15 75:20,23,26 76:14 77:6 78:28 181:23

depicting 125:4

depiction 66:6

depicts 13:20

deployed 90:3

depo 11:20 20:6 21:26 24:10 26:24 42:23,26 62:26 66:1 86:8 125:14 126:24 133:10 149:24 187:14 225:27 237:6 259:1,2,4,21 276:13 284:10 307:17

depos 293:21

deposit 63:11

deposition 151:8 253:20 279:7 280:8 285:4,10 291:19 312:7

deregulated 296:10;21

describe 13:8 21:14 22:7 50:7 51:2,8 54:22 106:4,16,28 107:25 108:7 168:10 260:16 273:17

describing 5:14 69:15 168:4

description 17:16 104:24 226:1,6 274:8, 16 277:28 278:16,20

design 60:25

designated 116:20 307:21,23 309:5

designates 307:20

designation 112:19

designed 230:4 289:28

desired 230:16

desks 26:25,26

destination 71:14 119:25 193:1 312:16.17

detail 195:27 258:28

detailed 249:28

details 22:5 35:8.10

detected 89:22,23

detects 89:20

determination 217:17 294:14

determine 57:17 62:3 69:4 95:15 102:25 257:7 271:13 280:26 282:23

determined 77:13 95:17 301:1

determining 162:10,17 189:20 194:3 201:6 203:17 282:22

develop 11:6,15,18 12:12 16:1 17:21 25:28 26:1 107:14 108:23 204:18 241:19

developable 96:6

developed 199:20 200:20,23,28 201:7 213:17 287:28

developing 13:10 206:21,22,23 286:6

development 17:2 55:23 56:4 81:17 87:15 92:1 102:19 107:17 157:14 164:1 216:11 224:11 286:25

diagonal 73:28 86:26, 27

dialogue 187:23

diesel 289:20

difference 23:2 44:17 79:1 163:2 302:12

differently 193:22 301:24

difficult 95:6 149:2 199:19 200:19,22,24,28 219:17,19 236:25 difficulties 13:23

dimensions 63:25 64:25,27 65:12,22

direct 5:10,13 46:16 65:8 83:25 147:21.22

direction 25:24 65:11 79:21,24 89:27 248:5

directions 95:24

directly 66:16 146:22 226:20

director 11:1

directors 9:19,25

dirt 103:12,22 136:18 286:26

disadvantage 219:9

discharge 136:19

disclose 261:6

disconnected 286:13

discourse 263:10

discovery 262:22

discus 192:7

discuss 50:3,15 109:14 157:6 164:9 167:11 287:20.22

discussed 48:2 52:21
62:15 71:8 76:1 83:17
92:26 95:27 97:19
125:10,26 126:3 127:12
133:17 143:10 144:7,13
146:4,6 155:10 158:25
159:22 170:10 176:12
189:5 194:16 196:27
199:11 204:23 208:25
215:20,25,28 222:15
228:20 232:7 234:2,24
238:15 265:15,27
267:25 275:20 287:19
303:11 318:14

discusses 300:10

discussing 130:13 154:22 156:7,14 182:5, 6,27 202:28 215:21 237:13 242:27 267:3 275:13 discussion 5:9 61:14
93:15 115:3 156:8
163:12 164:10 165:13
176:19 180:13 190:20,
23 202:24 224:22
229:26 231:10 237:20
251:4 257:18 258:24,25
259:15 262:16 267:25
269:9 270:28 271:3
275:15 276:20 277:14
300:11 317:4 320:14

discussions 12:14,15
41:21 61:9,11 69:14,17
82:9 83:5,9,11 97:21
101:1,7,10,12 165:17
191:1 204:17,20 208:28
216:27 231:7 238:4,6,
20 262:23 267:1,20
269:3 270:6,7,8 271:9,
11,13,16 272:1,2,18,20,
21 277:9,16,23,25

disembark 121:16

disjointed 14:10,11,17 15:18 21:21 58:8 190:7 255:7 281:21 286:12

disorganization 13:13

dispatching 24:12 27:2

displacement 282:28

displayed 184:5

dispute 53:16

disrespected 255:9

disrupting 286:4

distance 14:16 30:25 58:3,18 73:4 89:15 92:23 96:19,23 98:14 148:27 251:12 320:19

distinction 285:8

district 37:16 115:10 299:14

divide 259:13

divided 211:22 259:10, 12

dividing 69:9

division 52:4,6,27

divisions 52:25

document 8:9 17:5,12, 14 33:23 34:14,23 35:27 36:1 48:3,18,22, 28 49:2 118:23 121:21, 22,25 134:12,13,15 146:18 152:10 153:11 168:14 223:21 226:13 261:11,13 266:13 273:5,7,9,11,15 275:5 299:10 301:26 308:17, 20

documentation 222:11 311:4

documents 12:11,22 16:14 33:6,17,19 34:1, 26 35:10,26 56:15 72:8 82:20 83:11 109:28 118:22 216:16 217:11, 13 250:7 291:3 302:25 303:1,15 307:12,13,19 320:11

HEMOODING SALENIF IN JOHN MEYER

dog 291:11

domain 21:10 62:4,20 63:23 68:15,24 69:24 101:16,21 104:27 105:6 150:15,19,26 151:15, 17,25 152:2 154:3 199:5 200:2,14 202:28 208:20,24 217:21 218:5,8,15,16,24,26 219:4,8,12,16 230:22---231:6 234:26 235:3 242:16,20,24 243:1,9, 10,13,18,21,22,25,27 244:2,20 245:4,8,10 246:3,10,14,18,24,27 247:9,10,14 250:20 251:1 254:1,10,24 256:3,14 260:14,26 261:3,23 262:2,18 266:25,27,28 267:14, 15,18 268:2,6,9,16,25, 26 269:24 270:2 273:5 275:26 279:21 280:9, 22,26 281:9 286:10 287:18 290:11 302:3 315:8.15 316:3

door 137:16 160:15 165:14 242:2

dot 18:20 20:13 35:2 124:17 205:13 206:7

dots 64:16

dotted 111:17 double 35:6 double-sided 35:16 doubt 54:2 177:8

downtown 115:10 141:28 284:21

downhill 94:20 96:12

draft 35:4,5

drafting 48:27

drafts 49:5

drag 215:18

drainage 78:7 92:25

draw 42:9 185:26 186:8,14,15 212:26

drawing 105:12 164:16 235:20,28 238:14,18 249:8,9,11

drawings 16:26 69:10 235:11

drew 128:19,20

drive 19:10 85:20 129:25 159:9 213:27,28 251:11

driven 130:7

drives 232:17

driveway 94:19,24 96:9 97:15 214:4

driving 55:15 160:25 289:8

drop 29:4 88:28 89:8 90:15 148:24 227:2

drop-off 148:28

dropped 148:13 253:3

drove 159:11

DTMF 90:5 196:4

dual 90:6

Dudley 81:5 82:13 96:3,18,25 97:6,22 107:21 160:16 168:17 169:1,6,7,17 177:10,28 189:4 190:14,21 199:19 200:19,28 201:5,14,16 **Dudley's** 160:23 161:23 167:22,26 168:1,3,7 201:19

Dudly 56:12 77:12 190:16

due 133:22 138:1

dump 149:26 305:28 306:2,13,22

dumping 52:23 209:19

duplicate 164:17

duties 10:6

dynamic 42:21

E

e-mail 201:26 203:10 204:22,24

earlier 56:19,21 57:16 60:18 62:21 68:16 71:13 74:5,8 75:16 77:19 79:3,4 83:17 84:1 92:3,6,27 93:9 96:21 100:3 101:26 110:24 111:10 115:3 123:13 124:1 127:12,24 128:19 133:17 136:23 143:3 146:4,6 154:17 155:18 156:6 157:13 158:12,17 159:22 164:20 166:1,16 178:13 187:21 194:9 225:19 234:3,24 236:24 238:20 242:27 251:4 255:10 256:19 298:3 307:16 308:3

early 24:21 138:9 139:28 154:9 171:10

earnings 209:7

ease 64:11 87:13

easier 14:24 58:26,28 92:10 169:9 201:10 264:4 316:28

easiest 112:14 156:21

east 20:3 46:23 54:25 64:15,19 65:25 66:5,13 77:11 86:21 89:21 92:22 94:1 95:11 96:10, 19,20,21 98:1 100:9 113:24 124:25 137:17, 19,21 142:3,9 166:23 178:6 181:23 191:17 195:16 318:20

eastbound 94:26 95:1

eastern 46:5 93:5 94:15 160:19 281:21

easternmost 114:14

easy 78:13 94:16 162:24 177:23 245:17 255:27

EBITDA 208:4 209:6

Ecoline 20:21

economic 164:7 282:17

economics 240:12

ect 162:24

ED 199:4,15 200:8,9 201:27 218:21 219:3 242:16,21,23,26 243:6 244:4

edge 91:19 94:18 100:13,14 133:7,8 168:22

effect 41:12 137:20 284:24 308:24

effective 106:7,12,19, 24 107:27 108:4 150:4 164:5 232:14

effectively 119:18
123:21 128:6,25
129:19,24 132:10,21,23
135:12 136:3 141:2
149:1,4 153:12 156:21,
22 157:1 185:4 199:10
204:8 205:8 212:6
213:14,28 215:22 227:4
229:22 232:15 240:17
261:28 268:25 276:21
310:9

efficiency 58:24

efficient 15:1,6 58:26

efficiently 28:6 30:19 150:5 232:12,16

effort 21:21 31:15 44:24 63:9 72:6 217:10 247:7

efforts 24:12 68:18,24 69:14,18 139:1,2,6,7 144:26

egress 22:19 70:22 92:9 94:14,16,17,19 96:8 161:25 211:21 214:7 236:24 240:3,10 286:18

eighth 88:18 89:16

Elaine 144:19

electing 114:11

electric 140:28 298:4

electrical 211:1

electricity 18:24,26

element 85:27

elements 58:7 107:23 276:23 278:24

elevation 58:3 99:3,13 100:11,15 211:26

Eli 277:6

Eli's 251:10,24 252:1,9

eliminate 31:21 85:7 284:18

eliminated 39:2 86:10 87:10 237:1

eliminates 86:7

elimination 85:27 86:23 166:15

else's 236:21,27

email 55:13 56:5 81:13 84:3,5 85:1 93:9 100:16 157:5,25 158:7,16,22, 26 159:1,6 160:27,28 164:12 165:3,8,14,28 167:9 176:12,24,25,27 177:3 178:19 179:5,27 181:11 182:27 185:3, 13,15,23 187:9,12,20 188:1,12,13,17,19,23, 24,25 190:9,20 191:5,8, 12 192:23 193:14 194:5,13 195:8,9,12 196:24,25 197:7,25 198:19,26 199:1,9,14 200:3,5,13,17 201:21 202:9,14 203:3,4

204:26,27 205:5,8,11, 12 206:7,26 207:17,18, 23,26 208:18 209:11 210:9 215:19,21 216:4, 12 217:19,20 218:11,20 219:1,2,21 221:11,13 222:8,16 223:7,9,11,14, 16 224:3 226:14 228:11 229:6 230:14,18 232:28 233:2,5,7,8 236:14,18, 23,26 237:12 238:10, 24,25 239:3,18 240:22, 25 241:2,15 242:14 243:4 244:12.14 245:13,14,15 248:1,6,7, 9,19,23,28 249:13,19, 20,23,24 250:2,7 252:24,26 253:27 254:17 255:1,17,26 256:8,25 257:20 258:9, 17,25 259:17 260:8,12, 20,21,25,28 262:10,14, 23 275:2,15,16,27 276:1 277:19

emails 81:11 91:6 93:15 95:28 156:20,23 158:11 164:15 165:18, 25,26 194:18 198:2 203:2 208:15,20 215:22,26 232:7,11 238:6 241:13 242:28 255:23 256:17 262:17, 21,26,28 263:3,9 265:15 266:26 267:3 271:17 277:13

embark 112:28 113:3, 10 115:19,21

embarked 114:4 embarking 83:22

EMD 90:24

emergencies 15:12

emergency 130:2

eminent 21:10 62:4,20 63:23 68:15,24 69:23 101:16,21 104:27 105:6 150:15,19,26 151:15, 17,25 152:2 154:3 199:4 200:2,14 202:28 208:20,24 217:21 218:5,8,15,16,24,26 219:4,8,12,16 230:22 231:6 234:26 235:2

242:16,20,24 243:1,9, 10,13,18,21,22,25,27 244:2,20 245:4,8,10 246:2,9,14,18,24,27 247:9,10,14 250:20 251:1 254:1,10,24 256:3,14 260:14,26 261:3,23 262:1,18 266:25,27,28 267:13, 15,18 268:2,6,9,16,25, 26 269:24 270:1 273:5 275:26 279:21 280:9, 22,25 281:9 286:10 287:18 290:11 302:3 315:7,15 316:3

employee 65:26 158:9 employees 66:4 93:11 employment 32:2 enclosed 104:21

Empire 152:11,28

enclosed 104:21 154:23 288:26

encompass 66:27 encompassed 34:12

encompasses 41:25

encountered 183:24

encouraged 37:19

encourages 37:16

end 14:12 18:24 22:20, 23 26:5 31:28 42:1,2 68:3 70:28 71:14 72:23 79:4 93:2 94:15 121:7 126:11 128:21 135:12 191:18 193:14 215:8 219:26 220:2 228:1 230:4 237:19 270:19 279:15 293:27 310:15 312:17

ended 271:20

Ending 183:4

ends 22:23 146:25 183:12 185:5

energetic 101:27

energy 12:7 217:4,10

enforcement 15:12 298:5

engage 88:2 165:9 256:18

engaged 70:6 243:9 244:20

engaging 16:28 63:12 89:5

engine 65:18 289:20

engineered 102:27

engineering 60:26 63:16 88:9

engineers 63:12 290:6

engines 289:19

enhance 11:16,18

enhancing 57:14

enjoy 120:4

enjoyable 237:18

ensure 6:25

enter 40:9 88:16 213:16 217:27

entered 8:12 11:19 16:17 52:25 67:8 68:2, 10 69:25 265:14

Enterprises 47:9,14

entertaining 231:1

entire 18:20 63:15 73:20 89:14 99:26 102:13 151:5 226:19 251:19 319:5

entirety 214:23

entities 31:14 247:10 302:2

entitled 33:20 50:28 146:3 241:15

entity 46:4 53:18 260:1, 2 296:20

entrance 15:23 72:20 137:14 213:4,13,22,25 233:15

entrepreneur 12:6 101:27 161:18 165:12 203:19

entrepreneurial 11:28 12:10 13:14 60:19 entrusted 102:15

environmental 16:18 63:13 209:26,27 210:6

equated 319:25

equipment 14:21,24, 27 15:13 23:28 24:11 64:23 73:7 87:8 90:18, 19 117:12 125:7 127:21 135:10 227:26 288:6,9 289:2,3,11 293:22 305:18 307:4

equivalent 40:6 137:16 289:19

era 41:13

erected 180:23

Erica 182:23,24 183:12, 17 185:5

errors 123:14

escrow 16:24 63:10 67:23,27 68:11,12

essence 147:3

essentially 146:24 226:15

established 53:21 243:14 269:25

estate 152:21 241:8.9 293:22

estates 294:2

etcetera 191:22 192:14

Eureka 129:2 130:7 133:7

evaluate 12:12 184:1, 8,10 217:5,6,11 221:9 259:9 270:2 299:28

evaluated 161:22 162:18 163:8,17 183:13,21 188:13 214:7 215:14 231:5 252:17 259:11,18 289:25

evaluates 300:10,11

evaluating 75:15 177:12 179:22 189:21 192:17 196:19 207:15 210:8,16 212:21,22 214:18 215:4 217:4 220:7 221:2,5,7,8 229:21 231:12,15,18 240:16 267:13 268:15 315:7

evaluation 75:5 187:24 193:25 207:28 209:11 210:11 217:14 230:20 233:9 262:23 266:23 267:19 295:14

evaluations 177:16

eve 131:7

evening 206:10

event 20:11

eventually 89:12,26

evidence 8:12 9:1,4 36:12,15 47:17 48:7 53:13,22 54:10 61:25, 28 74:21,25 75:2 105:22,27 109:23 110:4 169:20,21,25,27 170:2, 4,8,10,28 265:15,16,20, 25 266:8 274:21 302:27 305:4

evidentiary 82:13

exact 141:19

EXAMINATION 5:10

examples 15:8 18:10,

exceed 52:12 196:14

exceeds 317:17,19

Excellent 218:13

exception 255:8

excess 65:27 285:6

exchange 45:19 82:9 179:28 216:28 218:2,4 238:10 250:17,19 251:1,5,8 259:28

excitement 12:7

exclamation 166:7 230:25

exclude 144:3

exclusive 314:21

exclusively 148:16

excursion 18:15 71:10 123:24 179:22 295:25, 26 296:27 297:2,9,11, 16 298:23,25,27 308:7, 9 318:2,4,20,25

excursion-style 143:2

excursions 295:6 296:13

excuse 17:7 59:28 76:25 94:15 96:10 113:14 133:18 137:11 138:11 142:26 202:17 204:25 218:10 234:23 238:23 268:27 305:16 318:20

executive 81:19 102:7

exercise 62:3 266:18 267:6 268:20

exercised 269:24

exhibit 6:8.11.16 7:27 9:1 13:20 14:10 20:17 21:21 26:12,14 33:12, 15 34:9,11,13 36:2,6, 11,13,15,19,25,27 37:4, 28 38:8,16 39:9,23 41:23,24 43:3 44:21 45:22 47:6,16,23 48:3. 5,7,16 49:13 50:3 53:12 54:10,11,14,16,17,20 56:15,25,27 57:1,10 61:21,25,27,28 64:1,2, 3,7,10 65:16 66:14,26 67:11,13,15,17,20,21 68:7,26 70:16 72:8,11, 13,26 74:20,24,27,28 75:20,23,27 76:26 77:6 79:3 81:2,7,9,10,13 82:8,16,23,24,26 83:1,4 84:5,8 90:27 92:21 96:1 98:23 99:2 100:16 104:2,3,7,8,22,25 105:2,9,17 106:2,4,14, 16,26,28 107:25 108:6, 7 109:15 110:4 111:7, 17 118:9,23 121:22 123:15 124:10,15,16,26 125:22 127:25 128:15. 17 135:25 144:12,15 145:26 146:2 147:28 148:3 149:11 152:5,7, 20 154:14 155:14,15 156:19,20,26 166:14

168:4,9,13,20,24 169:3, 5,21,24,25,26 170:1,2, 3,7,8,10 176:10,12 181:17,18,22,23,25,27 182:2,3,6,14 183:1 184:6,15,20,27 185:3 188:17 195:8 197:13 211:28 212:5,16 213:19 222:28 223:1,4,9,10 228:7 232:18,19 233:12 235:16 236:8,21 258:5 261:8 262:9,13 263:3,9 265:14,19,20,21,24,25 271:17,20 273:4 275:10 276:15,21 277:1,13,15, 18 279:11 280:1,2 285:13 291:8,10 292:3, 8,17 293:6 294:27 299:11 303:10,16,19,21 304:26,27 305:7,8,13 307:5,8,28 308:18,19, 22,24 309:2,3

exhibits 36:19 39:10 43:18 75:1 105:21,25, 26 110:20,22,23,24 118:3 134:9 143:3 169:20 170:21,24,27 235:9 236:10 265:26 266:7,10 267:25 271:17 303:2,10 304:28 305:3 320:25

exist 79:11 86:8 109:7 135:16 197:16 311:23

existed 13:25,28 39:22

existence 53:21 294:17

existing 31:25 32:8 38:7,11,15 41:8 65:15 73:12 166:9,24 167:12 201:11 211:25 213:4 237:21 320:4

exists 30:16 58:8 135:18,19 194:27 279:5

exit 28:21 76:19

expand 11:24 15:27 16:4 17:21 55:20 63:3 166:17 247:2 282:2 319:20

expanding 17:3 expansion 55:23 60:9 246:11

expect 165:16 221:6 319:10

expense 31:4 221:15

expenses 221:28

experience 215:12 249:26

expert 270:23 280:25

explain 19:20 23:8 27:9 87:20 140:22 148:18 168:19 184:9 260:4 290:27 307:11,12

explained 40:4 77:19 115:3 254:1

explaining 230:11,13

exploded 30:14

explore 11:9 310:19

explored 37:19 67:4

exploring 16:3 67:7 70:8,11,12

Express 118:24 119:2, 11 120:21,24 121:8 143:4,11

expressed 28:27 31:9 191:5

extended 168:21 181:19

extends 186:22

extension 137:20

extensive 101:5

DALONOIVO 101.0

extent 256:6 270:12 311:23

exterior 288:27

extra 23:4 237:4 314:10

extremely 14:8,28 18:2 22:16 23:6 26:28 28:20 95:5 203:21

F

face 94:1 96:21 178:6 255:5

facets 103:9

facilitate 281:19

facilities 11:4,11,16,18 13:21,24,25,28 15:26, 28 16:8 17:3,15 22:8 24:6,13,17,19,20,21 25:19,20 27:6 30:10 38:7,16 39:22,26 45:3 47:14 55:4 57:14,15,18, 19 66:27 103:15 124:24 133:13 193:11 210:23 276:12,13 282:3 284:17 288:5 314:23 315:1,13

facility 14:15 15:5,25 16:2,10,26 21:20 22:11 24:2 31:20,27 38:20,23, 24,25,28 42:7 46:8,20, 23,27 47:3 60:10 61:13 62:25 64:21,22,23 65:11,13 66:2,6 70:15, 17 72:18,20 73:2,4,8 76:2 79:26 80:3 87:17 92:1,6,7 93:6 95:10 103:23 124:27 126:23, 24 133:10 146:13 194:8 234:15,16 252:18 262:25 273:24,25 283:6 288:15,23,25 289:22 290:1,3

facing 25:24

Tact 16:9 19:18 25:22 73:3 98:28 99:2 101:10 125:12 138:1 139:1 141:19 211:22 213:7 220:18 238:2 240:3 246:2,13 255:8 259:17 282:26 292:27 295:21 300:28 301:11 313:25

factor 58:9 167:17 179:23 180:2,5,6,11,12 188:8 194:6 201:6,9,13, 16 204:1,4 210:12 214:2 219:12,14 231:23 252:12 268:28 269:10

factored 231:7 268:26

factoring 220:20 231:9,11,26 232:1,3,5, 8.10

factors 57:17,23 59:8, 13 60:15 63:2 77:16 189:20 194:3 201:4 203:16 219:15 240:1,8 268:27 282:24

facts 54:2 259:17 274:20,21

factual 53:19

factually 53:22

fair 55:7 114:27 192:8 207:21 221:10 226:26 254:4,14 257:24 264:25 268:18

fairly 54:27 78:13 104:3 105:2,9,17 284:25

fall 40:14 89:13 139:28

familiar 35:20,27 36:1, 21,24 41:14,16 48:18, 20 55:6,9 60:22 87:26 111:11 118:15,20 121:25 134:16 163:23 194:25 195:12 218:7 250:27 261:11 266:21 273:8 275:5 280:28 281:1,3,9 290:23,25 291:26,28 292:1 295:28 298:20 299:17 300:2,23

families 318:14

family 183:27 309:5

fantastic 161:15

fare 308:16

fares 106:20,21 295:6 296:13 298:16,28 307:12,14,26 308:3,8, 10,13 309:20 313:18, 22,27 314:4

Farr 68:5

farther 290:3 318:7

fashion 14:11 86:26 103:7 129:14 142:19 228:7 253:23

fast 103:19

favor 188:3

feature 57:27

features 305:20

federal 129:28 131:17, 19 140:2 314:24,28 315:12 316:3,10,13

federally 314:26

feedback 251:18

feeds 46:2

feel 280:26 320:25

feelings 237:24,26

fees 221:27.28

feet 65:22,23 90:23 91:25,28 92:17,23 96:24 97:11 99:9,10,14 100:13 140:26 161:19, 24 193:15,19 203:20

fell 138:6

felt 211:15 258:28

field 177:21 209:21,23 210:3,6

figure 203:12 220:27

figures 226:15

figuring 229:21

file 243:21 270:20

filed 105:7 131:28 219:5,8,16 235:3 243:10,18,24,26 244:7 263:15,21 264:5,17 273:5,12 277:27 301:26 313:26 314:4,8

filing 219:12 234:25 235:21 287:18 308:27

final 49:12 217:16

finally 37:21

finances 217:4,6 222:7

financial 82:1 101:5 209:9 216:6,7,16 217:10,11,13 220:7,16, 20,21,22 221:7,24 222:10 227:14 240:19 248:21 249:28 250:1,8 251:13 252:13 256:26

financials 219:25 220:27 222:3 240:17 248:27 250:6 257:2,5,

Financing 139:24

find 5:27 77:6 85:3 178:25 197:5 198:3 205:5 207:1 275:9

finding 203:13,16 204:1,14 296:26 297:18 298:9.15

Findings 295:21

fine 55:8 94:28 112:23 149:8 170:19 199:23 202:15,17 261:8 280:7 301:20 302:10 304:18

finesse 255:16

finish 171:2,3 320:24

finished 45:8,16,20 58:28 159:7

fire 177:4

fires 15:11

firm 63:19 65:6 67:19

fist 261:20

fit 58:7

five-year 246:22

fix 139:19 237:6

fixed 137:1

flag 156:4 307:21,22,23 309:6

flag-stop 19:16,19,22

flags 19:24

flat 44:6 54:27 92:14, 23,25 93:22,23 96:3 178:9,11,17,18 191:19 193:16 260:11 305:27, 28 306:5,11,13,26

flatness 98:5

fleet 283:6

flip 67:12 188:16 197:12 261:8 307:8 309:16

floor 72:18

flow 28:20 39:11,17 43:13 44:11,13 53:23 144:16,22 145:1 283:5

flows 239:5

flush 214:23

fly 195:18,27 203:20

flying 42:24 161:18,19 203:19

focus 56:27 64:7 163:28 165:19,22,23 215:13 220:15 232:15 248:25 257:11

focused 87:23 164:1 248:3,4 270:27

focusing 207:20 252:6

folk 20:22

folks 25:24 143:6 195:14 233:26 264:26 309:12

follow 127:10 141:8 208:16 238:21

follow-up 68:1 241:17 242:10

footprint 65:14,18 211:25

for-revenue 13:1

force 60:7

foreclosure 239:9,10

foremost 74:9

foreseeable 21:7 107:10 108:17

Forest 43:18 44:14

forgetting 275:5

forklift 30:2,4

form 171:15 278:26 303:14,19 304:2,16

formal 11:23,25,26 12:17 60:26 62:17 63:16 224:19

formality 13:9

formulating 12:11

Fort 5:16,18,21 8:14 14:23 15:3 18:2,21 20:12 24:18,20,21 25:15,28 26:2 30:28 31:18,20 33:2,20 34:15 35:9,23 36:5,8 37:23 38:15 39:17 43:23 45:15,17 49:28 52:8,10 53:1 63:2,3,20 65:15,19 71:13 111:23,27 112:24,28 113:23,28 114:1,12,19,24,28 119:13 121:15 133:20, 28 140:9,11 141:23,24, 26,28 142:7 243:15,19 246:15 306:4,11 309:15 310:14,26 312:2,14,16,

forward 59:2 62:19 103:8,9,16 139:1 156:23 203:26 216:13 271:9,10 272:24

found 181:1 240:26

founded 18:6 102:14 109:4 277:12

founding 109:3

four-and-a-half 78:25, 26 80:2

four-digit 90:13

four-plus 126:17

fourth 37:15 251:10

FRA 52:9 88:10 130:2 195:19

fraction 178:21

frame 118:28 171:7,9 192:7 238:5 246:14,23 276:25 313:26

framed 272:10

franchise 156:5 227:4

Francisco 65:7 86:22

frankly 63:8 163:28 196:11 205:22 230:28

free 259:4 320:25

freight 10:13 11:24 16:5 17:3,19,21 18:11 21:17 22:8,9,25 24:7, 14,15 31:10,11 32:9,14 38:14 39:21 42:19 44:2, 25 45:1 46:12 47:10,13 49:21 50:12,21 51:27 52:17,20 70:7,8,9 71:1 72:24 107:17,26 108:2, 8,13,16,21 109:9 116:20,26 117:9,10,11 129:14 130:16,18 131:2,5 141:18 143:26 144:5,10,27 145:1,8,12, 19,23 149:4 164:2 165:5,19 180:28 181:3 188:12 194:9 214:20 215:13,24,25 229:2,5 237:12 238:4,14 252:14 263:2,5,7 273:18 279:14 297:26 305:11, 15 307:3 317:6 318:21, 27 319:20

freight-based 273:24

freight-type 214:15

freight/maintenance 307:1

frequency 90:13

friend 251:16

friendly 217:21 218:21,

fringe 254:19,27

front 45:23 64:27 84:21 97:16 98:9 100:8,9 110:20 122:20 125:21 158:18 161:26 185:15 210:25,27 226:20 241:23 279:24

frontage 191:19

full 8:3 53:6 63:21 66:27 80:5 120:18 210:28 304:13,17

fully 101:24 204:18 296:17

fun 237:18

function 37:28 39:22 178:4 192:27 193:10,12 214:28 215:1 294:11 297:19,23 298:24,26

functional 134:26 177:14

functionally 133:18

functions 27:3

funding 139:26,28 140:2,6,9,12,17

funds 139:18,20

furthering 56:3

future 11:4,11 13:10 21:8 59:26,27 60:8

107:10 108:17 137:22 188:7 196:15 204:5 250:18 273:18 279:14

FY2020 33:20

G

gain 237:4

gains 216:25

game 216:20

gap 141:8

gas 28:15 298:3

gate 85:24 88:6 94:17 149:21,25,27 319:26

gated 39:1 88:11 90:8 91:21

gates 85:19,20 88:28 89:5,8,9,27 90:14,15,16 195:17 284:15

gauge 73:4,5,13

gave 18:10 33:27 84:14 149:19 160:27 251:17 263:19

gear 289:13

general 9:14 10:7,23 12:24 17:12 51:26-78:7-81:18 117:18 125:10 126:9 147:15 151:1 158:1 181:20 280:9,22 312:11

generally 12:19,25 16:7 25:24 49:16,26 50:3,12 51:2 54:22 59:11 79:12,16 105:14 111:13,17,20,21 113:9, 24 114:20,27 115:7,24 116:5,15 117:2,23 118:15,27 119:20,24 120:26 121:6,8,12,25 122:24 123:1,9,12 126:3,12 127:7 128:17, 22 140:22 141:22 142:6,12,16,20 143:7 154:26 162:9,13 168:19 185:23 224:10 237:25 285:24 318:1

generates 205:17 233:17,21 generation 12:3 13:1 164:7

generations 102:11

generators 127:8

gentle 255:10

gentleman 76:3

Gentlemen 221:13

Geo 32:6 47:9 102:25 103:13 145:22,23

George 160:16,23 177:10 190:14

George's 177:4

Georgia 243:25

give 6:14 18:16 54:8 65:11 67:21 79:12,16 84:18 89:8 103:12 142:24,27 158:15,19 270:15 308:20 312:11 314:12 316:26

giving 269:5 282:14

Gjerde 37:15

glass 45:9,14

glasses 176:18

Glen 114:11,14,18,20, 23 247:22

Glenn 193:24 245:18 254:20,21 256:8,10 260:21,25 261:2

Glenna 310:22

goal 190:8 194:7 214:19 247:18 259:2 270:25,27

goals 62:25

Golden 319:26

golf 211:8

good 5:7,8,12 6:23 7:5
48:9 70:17 90:20,21
98:14 161:13,21 162:4
165:11 171:1 176:6
194:21 199:15 200:8
201:27 218:24,27
219:24 230:21 232:4,11
235:13 271:25 272:7,28
281:8 282:8,21 283:14,

21,28 284:2 302:23 315:28

goods 18:4 20:24 117:11 148:20 164:6 282:15 284:20

Google 64:4

goose 255:4

govern 88:11 141:10

governing 216:22 314:26

government 53:18 140:2 141:6,9 298:7

grab 176:17

grade 54:25 55:1,2 57:25 58:2 59:11 64:14 75:10 78:12 85:8,13,27 86:3,5,7,10,13,16,20, 21,22 93:27 94:3,6 95:18 96:15,16,17,18, 23,25 97:4,11 99:4 148:27 161:24 163:2 178:6,8 284:9,11,13,14

grain 28:28 29:1,2,4,10 45:9,14 59:1

grant 31:16 32:25,27 33:1,21 34:21 35:27 36:1,4,7,8,17 37:5 44:25,27 47:20,24,25, 28 70:6 71:1,8,17,27 72:4,8 132:9 133:2 140:4,12 144:26 145:6 311:9,10 312:3

grants 132:21

gravel 27:23,24

great 7:23 92:15 94:27 159:10 166:9 169:15 193:17 222:21 227:26 230:6 299:26 314:15

greater 92:8

greatest 98:28 230:21 232:4,11 271:25 272:7, 28 281:7 282:8,21 283:14,20,28 284:2

green 209:21,23 210:3,

greet 19:25

grew .102:11

grim 85:23

groceries 20:8

gross 221:15

ground 103:5 191:19 253:2

grounds 21:26 293:21

group 13:5,11 141:14 218:28 237:15 261:14, 24 262:12

grow 11:9,13,14,21 12:2 14:4 16:6 17:12 55:20 60:4 107:18 109:7 166:17 195:15 231:2,16 232:12 247:8, 11 277:10 281:15 282:2

growing 17:18,19 70:2 211:25

growth 59:26,27 87:15 109:2 239:28

guards 156:9

guess 85:12 189:3,4 192:24 205:4 255:1 285:21 288:11 301:23

guests 120:3 309:25 310:10 314:5

guidance 9:14

guide 18:9

guy 254:19,27

guys 13:26

Н

H-A-R-T 151:20

ha 255:18

habitat 285:22,28 286:21

hairs 96:14

half 14:16 18:28 60:11 96:24 98:9 99:23

half-circle 66:10

halfway 59:20

Hampson 178:26

hand 76:15 191:25 217:24

hand-in-hand 146:20

handle 24:3 122:16

handled 14:22

hands-on 10:8

hang 88:27

Hannah 20:2

happen 37:21 38:21 88:23 91:15 103:17 107:20 203:13 204:1,14 219:3 311:14

happened 8:16 68:17 69:17 136:27 267:21,22

happening 103:7

happy 54:5-185:20 213:18 227:1 255:5 300:25 315:19

hard 70:20,23 92:7 248:11.17 260:17

hard-earned 245:3

harm 231:17

harmony 103:9

Hart 13:3 55:13,18 222 56:2,23 61:10 62:15 81:13,14,16 84:3,8,15, 18 85:9 87:14,22 90:4 91:25,27 92:14,20 93:10 96:2 101:2,25 150:17,25 151:4,18,26 152:1 157:7,8,11,12,13, 16 158:28 159:2,27 160:23 161:3.12.14 162:3,6,17,19 163:16, 22,26 164:9,28 165:3,4 167:1,6,15,16 188:20 189:10 190:10 191:9,10 194:12.21 196:19.26 198:27 199:6 201:1 202:5 203:4,11,18 204:3,8,27 207:23,24 208:9,15,18,27 214:23 215:6 216:4,5,8,10 217:20,26 218:12,14 219:2,22 222:11 223:11,20,24,27 224:17 228:5 229:20 230:10,23 231:9,24 232:1,5,22,26 233:2,3 237:15,16 238:10,18,26 239:18 240:23,25 242:14,19 244:13,17,23 248:7,12 249:13,14,20 252:27 253:5,10,13 254:17,26 255:11,21,22 256:8 257:16 260:9,16,22,25 261:2 267:8,11 272:3 275:17 276:2 277:9

Hart's 194:1 200:3 228:12 237:23,26 254:13

hauling 317:5

hauls 143:25 144:9

haven 278:20

head 115:25 191:23 192:15 213:12 214:11

headed 248:4

heading 20:1 94:26,28 95:1 98:1 178:5

heads 64:17

hear 53:24 85:21 123:17

heard 6:21 285:9

hearing 30:20 35:17 176:11 302:5

hearsay 8:6,8,21 9:2 47:19 53:15

heavy 73:7 90:25 91:1 127:9

heck 201:10

held 5:9 10:27 25:17 176:19 320:14

Helena 299:14

hellbent 206:14.26

helped 15:9,10,14,15

helpful 19:20 213:18 238:17

helps 30:15 230:5

high 31:25 92:23 208:8 239:26

higher 223:2

highlight 185:27 186:24

highlighted 187:5 213:8

highlights 222:9

highway 30:22,27 31:21 54:25 56:10 59:10 70:23 76:18 86:3 87:28 88:2 92:8 94:1,4, 21,22 96:13,20 100:10 152:14 153:23 155:4,16 156:7,16 168:23 177:20,23 187:15 191:19 195:16 198:16 209:22 213:15 214:5,12 225:3 230:6 232:13 255:28 261:25 283:3,24 286:22 287:8 289:6

hike 193:1

hikers 87:18 91:4 191:22 192:13 196:7,9

hiking 192:25 193:2 196:12

Hildebrand 5:22 6:4 7:27 8:20

Hildebrand's 8:26

hill 96:4 99:1 148:26 189:18 191:23 192:15 199:24,26 202:19

hillside 136:7,10,12 137:18 139:8 161:27

hired 261:23

historically 14:20 19:14 124:20

history 30:6

hit 18:26 80:13 88:24 89:3,6,12

hits 89:4

hitting 89:20

hold 10:21 18:7 25:22 26:27 27:1 151:9 279:8 320:19

holding 182:20

holds 90:11

home 19:11 242:3 252:3.8

homes 18:20 193:21

Honor 6:7,22 8:5 9:2
42:11 47:19 48:8,15
50:16 53:14 54:9 67:16
74:23 80:22 105:24
109:10,25 110:5,8
133:6 151:7 169:19,23
170:16 176:7 222:18
235:13 263:17 264:16
265:18,23 266:4 272:14
274:26 281:24 283:15
285:6 299:9 301:13,20
302:17,24 303:8,9
304:4,18 305:2 311:3
316:21 320:9 321:1

Honorable 144:19

hookups 210:28

hope 139:26,28

hoped 189:28

hoppers 52:23

Hornberger 276:11

Hornburger 65:7

horrible 189:17

harm 04:00 400:00

hour 94:23 160:26

house 14:22 65:15,18, 19 84:19,20,21 88:26 90:8,12 158:17,20 177:5 242:2 282:28 286:27 289:23

house/engine 65:15

housekeeping 109:13

houses 20:13 125:6 143:8 187:16 288:15, 17,24 289:7 290:4

huge 31:4 230:3 249:15,16 284:18,19

human 140:26

hundred 205:20

hundreds 302:4

hunt 265:1 298:6

hurt 165:9 237:23

hurting 237:25

hydraulic 127:9

1

idea 6:23 53:15 126:15 128:27 130:6 160:17 161:12,21 164:13 166:12,21,26 189:15, 18,26 190:3 218:25,27 225:8 315:5

ideal 179:9

ideally 162:23

ideas 11:8 12:12,13,22 13:9 17:12 82:9 179:28 189:23 202:24 225:16 231:1

identification 6:16 33:15 118:9 134:10 168:9 181:27 211:28

identified 52:21 53:1 60:12 77:14 93:26 107:21 245:21

identifies 52:1,3

identify 51:12 60:7 106:4,16,28 107:25 108:7 316:28

identifying 245:21

idling 289:11

illegal 129:25 183:24

illegally 209:19

illuminated 89:7 90:9 91:21

illustrated 278:25

illustration 249:6,7

image 99:2 136:9 185:14 213:6,7 275:12 276:4

images 82:14 168:7

imagine 95:8 204:27 252:28 286:24 289:5

immediately 59:25 89:9 102:21 103:21 125:16 165:13 202:5 209:17

immense 63:8

immensely 15:14

impact 42:18 220:20 227:9 231:18,28 282:17 288:23 289:23

impacted 108:27

impair 314:27

impaired 143:14 312:21

impatient 85:18 255:11.14

impeaching 285:1

impediment 98:7

imperative 74:7

importance 6:25 27:11 49:16 50:4

important 14:8 22:16 23:6 28:21 84:27,28 179:20 180:2,5,7,11 188:8,10 194:2,6,12 209:16 238:16 251:19 305:23 311:18

impression 160:26

improper 7:15

improve 25:27 26:1 207:1

-improved 208:6

improvement 48:25 49:8,12 50:2 145:27 320:4

improvements 140:16 177:7 210:20 213:28 231:22,25 274:9,11 276:27 278:22 320:6,7,

inappropriate 270:17

inbound 51:25

inbound/outbound 52:17

incidents 85:17

include 7:27 66:2 73:20 119:9 125:28 185:18 234:8 238:13 304:10

included 76:25 82:22

83:8 95:20 104:25,28 109:18 126:3 278:3,4, 10,11,15,16,18,20 304:16

includes 10:12 71:4 73:22 212:11 276:12 292:26

including 22:8 24:5 37:26 44:4 101:5 133:7 229:27

income 221:15,16 259:25

inconsistency 296:9

inconsistent 119:5 247:10

incorporated 222:7

incorrect 116:16

incorrectly 202:17

increased 59:5 137:21

increasingly 85:18

incumbent-style 140:24

incurred 137:25

indicative 263:5

individual 12:6 65:5 101:23,25 161:17 165:11

individually 316:28

individuals 141:16 150:20

indoor 288:25

induct 229:10

industrial 195:4

industry 14:6 30:12 49:22 63:7 85:22 195:27

inefficiencies 59:6 166:14

inexpensive 199:21

infer 202:1

inform 158:13

information 49:3 89:26 104:27 167:20,26 194:15 264:21 269:5 311:19

informed 92:22

infrastructure 49:17 50:5,9 139:24 201:12 214:6 229:11,23 230:16 239:16 283:1 317:5 318:23 319:9

infrastructures 230:4

ingress 22:19 70:22 92:9 94:14,16,17,19 96:8 161:25 211:21 214:7 236:24,26 240:3, 10 286:18

ingress/egress 95:2, 19 97:14 98:16

inguess/egress 22:20

inheriting 63:14

initial 163:12 279:20

initially 70:3 75:13 197:10 202:27

injury 230:21 271:25 272:7 273:1 281:8 282:21 283:14,28 284:3,24

input 249:26

inquiry 159:24

insanely 245:17

inside 22:12 64:20 73:17 289:4

inspections 296:20

inspectors 296:19

install 39:5 73:13 93:4 184:22 215:2

installation 73:24 87:16 94:11 100:6

installed 93:2,3

installing 252:17

instance 24:24 28:26 59:19

instances 46:15 53:20 58:22

instructions 67:23 276:5

insufficient 26:27 97:9

integral 92:1

intend 103:4 107:8 108:15 302:15

intended 58:25 105:3 278:1

intends 51:9,13 104:4 105:10.18

intense 245:18

intent 241:19 245:6 278:3 279:22 319:19,20

intention 286:4

interactions 8:14

interceded 68:19

interchange 129:5

interchanged 52:24 129:15 131:5

interest 28:27 31:9
68:6 100:25 101:28
140:3 144:27 152:21
164:8,24,28 177:8
198:15 209:7 231:16
269:8,26 270:3,9 271:1,
18 272:26 281:5
287:12.14

interested 31:6 47:10 75:14 109:8 167:19 241:18 268:24

interesting 42:20 97:25 188:25 208:2,10 209:15

interests 164:22

interior 139:4 288:28

intermediate 71:14 308:13

internal 271:9

internally 151:27 230:27 277:17

interpretation 147:14 270:12

interrogatories 303:14,20,23 interrogatory 303:18, 25,26,27,28 304:2

interrupt 33:22 47:27 186:7 305:26

interrupted 65:20

intersection 57:7 126:25 128:21 214:11

intersects 79:2 128:16 130:11

intimately 60:22

introduced 245:26

inventory 23:18

inverted 46:22

investigated 63:25 81:3

investigation 56:3 80:24 82:17.21

investment 209:13 220:28 230:15 319:10, 13,23

involved 15:16 150:18, 26 151:2,4,16,25,28 218:16 230:15 244:2

involves 152:25 156:15 193:4

involving 246:15 300:12

irrespective 120:19

IRS 218:1

isolate 18:3

isolated 18:3 20:11

issue 34:19 51:3 54:5 86:2 98:16 156:15 191:22 192:13,17 196:3 199:4 200:7 209:12,21 215:23 220:6 289:25

issued 34:17

issuer 41:3

issues 55:2 80:8 91:17, 21 93:25 94:28 96:5,8 97:14 98:19 184:6,7,10, 15 211:20 215:3 230:15 232:8 237:23 240:3,19 285:9 319:18 item 33:17 34:14,22,28 52:26 146:24 248:1 249:1

items 21:16,23 22:28 30:2,24 32:1 58:27 63:13 82:25 103:14,21 290:1 293:24,25

J

jam 137:16

January 6:3 25:11 93:10,15 95:28 97:21 100:18 106:20 107:2,28 108:10 157:8 160:6 163:7 164:23 176:13,24 178:20 188:19 190:10 204:25 215:20 238:5 267:3 295:1 308:25

Jason 198:9

Jeff 81:28 82:1 207:23 216:4,6 217:5 218:12 219:22 220:5 233:3 239:8 249:24 250:9 258:9 272:3 277:5

job 231:1,3 247:18

John 54:18 110:19,21 150:15,19,27 151:25 152:21 196:18 197:1 198:8 206:8,18 235:3 241:17,24 252:28 253:5,13 255:18 259:24 261:14,28 266:13 303:17

Johnson 8:5 9:2 18:1 33:22,26 34:1,4,6 42:10 47:19,27 48:4 50:16 53:14.25 61:26 62:2.5.7 74:23,26 105:24 109:25 110:8,12,15,17,18 117:27 118:2,5,8,11 132:17,19,28 133:16 134:6.11 143:22.23 144:1 151:7,11,13 168:12 169:14,18,26 170:3,9,16,19,21,26 171:3,8,11 176:9,20,21 181:26 182:1 184:13,25 185:11 187:1,6,7 197:19,22 198:1,22 203:7 212:2 222:26

235:9,12 236:11 258:1, 3,13,15,17 261:7 263:15,19,23 264:3,8, 13,23,28 265:10,12,21, 26 266:9 269:20 270:15,24 271:4,15 272:14 273:2 274:28 279:6,9 280:15,19,20 281:23 283:10 284:4,27 285:3,5,12 299:1,7,8 301:18,20,23 302:10, 17,20,23 303:3,9 304:4, 18,20,24 305:2,5 306:3 308:23 312:5,9 313:16 314:10,14 316:7,20,24 317:1 320:9,24

joined 13:5

joining 58:21

ioint 88:24

Jones 6:4

JORNSON 125:8

judge 7:5 17:10 162:4

judicial 53:17 54:1,6 109:21 263:16 264:4, 14,17 265:5 266:14 280:14 291:3,9 292:2, 17 294:27 299:11 302:26,27,28 303:2,3,5, 24

July 109:17 223:11 224:2,14 228:5 233:4 236:14 238:6,25 240:23 241:25 242:12,13,14, 27,28 244:5,13 245:14 247:21 248:8,20 249:13,20 256:28 275:2,17,28 276:25

junction 114:11,14,18 129:6 193:21

June 61:1,2,22 105:12 139:10,13 202:12 204:26 205:27 207:13, 14,24 215:21 217:19 218:20 219:21 221:12 274:13 285:17,18 299:15

junk 195:15

jurisdiction 40:14 296:21,24 314:22 315:13,16,22,26

justify 199:15 200:9 201:27 208:21

Κ

K-O-C-H 76:4

keenly 18:7 32:22

keeping 89:18

Kentucky 240:26 241:1

key 21:19,20 57:21,22 78:28 90:16 120:16 209:12

kick 91:7,11,14

kicking 166:28

kind 12:12 13:8 24:14 29:19 42:15 91:9 135:11 152:2 155:11 186:10 261:4 270:22 293:23 294:3 320:5

kinds 12:21 17:4

knew 62:24

knock 133:11

knocking 286:4 288:1

knowledge 115:12,14 129:10 130:23 137:6 158:21 160:11,12 161:7 168:16

KOA 56:13 76:23,24 77:11 81:6 82:10 94:4 97:23,24,26,28 98:1 99:19.25 100:3 101:2. 11 107:22 155:18,22,26 156:4 159:11 160:4,6,7, 15 163:1 164:19 168:23 169:2,4,8,9,10,17 178:6,10,21,28 179:3 189:9,10,26 190:4 205:14,25,28 207:15 208:1,2,10 209:11 210:15,19,21 212:8,13, 15,22 213:2,4,22 214:28 215:1 216:13,16 217:2,11 219:25 220:3, 9,15,18,24,26 221:3,7, 8,14 222:4 225:9,15,17 226:2,25 227:1,4,15

229:7,22 232:23 233:4, 10 234:3 236:2,19,20 237:13 239:4,19,24 240:1,17,26 241:4 247:25 248:1,22,25 249:25 250:5,11 251:14 252:8,12,17 257:2,5,7 258:28 259:2,3,9,12,20 275:3

KOA's 240:27

KOA-TYPE 227:10

Koch 76:3,4 77:10,20 80:26 83:2 107:22

Koch's 76:12 78:8

L

labeled 57:10 181:10

lack 13:9 240:2,11

lags 220:4

laid 60:28 73:6 74:14 127:17

land 95:19 96:6 98:4, 25,27,28 103:22 162:23,26 220:10,19 237:4 259:4,28 282:27 283:2

tandlocked 286:17

landowners 43:21

lands 310:4

landscaping 229:17

landslide 15:23 137:10,12 139:6

Lane 39:1,3 46:24 47:3 76:16 77:10 78:23,25 79:19 80:6,27 83:1 87:5,7 107:22 179:15 181:11,14,24 182:20,27 185:3

language 272:10

large 11:19 16:11 22:11 55:1 92:14 94:10 123:25 188:26 193:16 212:19 214:27 250:18 291:5

largely 199:21

larger 46:11 126:10 146:22

largest 43:21

late 19:6 24:11 124:21 138:9 139:28

Latex 39:13

Latex-like 39:13

launch 188:3

launching 142:19

Laurel 142:1

law 15:12 230:22 261:23 265:9 266:22,27 280:9,22 298:4,22 314:27 316:3

laws 88:11 231:6 267:18 314:25 315:15 316:3

lawsuit 234:26 235:3 270:20 313:26 314:4

layer 220:11

layover 120:3 121:8 122:27 123:1,3

lead 50:17 141:14,16

leading 50:16 287:17

Leapfrogging 42:24

learned 167:9 197:24 216:19

lease 44:5,6 76:12

leased 25:4,14,16 51:22

leave 12:2 116:23 117:3 130:16 286:10 317:28

leaves 116:5,7 122:3 147:18

leaving 117:17 166:22, 23,24 190:1 242:5

left 70:28 80:23 90:27 99:6 118:24 121:23 130:18,22,27 131:3 153:19 225:9 227:23 248:26 288:4 309:10

left-hand 20:18 72:19 305:16

legacy 102:15

legal 104:24 150:14 195:15 200:11 218:22 259:10,12 270:11,12, 13,22,26 280:27 284:1 301:16 302:9,16 316:15,17

legally 129:18,21

legalness 280:27

legend 65:1

legislation 35:8

legislative 264:19

Legistar 35:9,14,16

legit 31:25

length 27:21 65:23 112:4 137:22

lengthy 276:2

letter 5:14,17,22,25 6:1, 3 7:28 8:11,14,16,17,26 17:9 37:14,26 39:10 43:13,16,26 44:1,13,14, 22,23,26 45:23,24 47:7, 8,9 68:4,9 82:15 100:21,28 101:21 104:14,21,25,28 134:13 144:15,16,22,25 145:4, 15,22 190:17 196:18 197:11 198:8,10,12,14, 15 199:8,10,16 201:22, 28 222:15 261:27 262:3,5,6,7,9,12 265:22 267:28 272:19 275:20 276:8 278:2,5,6,9,27 279:1,2,20,23,26,27,28 280:1,4

letterhead 262:4

letters 31:14 32:26 37:1,2,4,7,11 39:8,9 44:18,19 47:23 68:25

level 11:8 13:13 54:27 58:1 59:11 78:13

Leventhal 63:19

Levy 261:14 262:12 271:12 275:21 276:5,7 278:6 279:1

Lexis 295:2

license 40:7

licensing 221:28

lifted 125:4

lightly 231:21

lights 85:19 88:2 89:6,7

likes 84:18 103:6 158:15 237:16

liking 191:27

limit 59:27

limited 78:18,21 94:17 96:9 101:10 128:22 143:25 144:10 161:25

limiting 214:2

limits 41:24 109:8 184:18 318:24

lineal 58:17

linear 63:5 98:14

lines 18:25 70:21 99:3 111:17 136:11 146:19, 23 147:5 186:21 213:11 319:24

liquid 28:15

list 171:15 179:8 305:20 306:6,7 307:18 309:26

listed 47:4 120:17 169:17 293:24 307:5 310:1

listening 7:11,13

lists 153:16

litigation 112:10 244:16 277:27

live 19:1 309:11,12 310:9

lived 313:28 314:5

lives 19:5 193:24

living 193:23

LLC 47:9 93:18 182:20

load 20:7 21:18 22:9,25 24:4 27:6,26 29:1,25 317:18

loaded 23:1 95:9

loading 28:26 29:28 72:21 228:1

loads 144:7

loan 140:3,5

local 71:24 314:25

locate 208:3,11

located 24:9 64:24 66:20 80:3 111:21 115:4,19 123:26 124:9, 24 126:10 128:18 146:21 181:6,14 182:28 196:20 271:24 272:6,27 282:7,20 283:13,19,27 284:17

location 14:28 70:10 85:3 98:20 111:14 115:16 125:10 126:5 134:16 143:14 156:3 166:19 179:10 181:19 188:4 193:28 196:10 305:20 306:4 312:21

locations 75:6,15 80:25 82:17,22 83:6 141:25,27

locomotive 14:12,14 42:7 43:10 88:16 90:22 122:18,19 126:22,23 127:20

locomotives 22:11,14, 17 74:11,12 90:24 127:15 289:18

log 46:3 47:2 320:21

logging 19:7

logically 239:16

logistical 211:20

logistics 30:18 32:2

logs 43:28 44:1,7,8 45:5,28 46:2,9,11,26 304:16

long 9:24 19:5 41:11 58:20 60:28 63:7 70:5 74:12 87:22 90:23 92:28 98:5,13 115:11 119:20 123:1 138:12, 13,17 142:16 148:23 161:4,6 167:16 191:19 225:10 249:25 255:14, 16 311:5

long-term 188:5 190:8 221:21,25 227:22 233:23,25

longer 27:24 89:20 133:12 135:7 150:3 215:18 241:18 247:25 257:8

looked 15:26 16:1 20:28 32:11 34:8 44:3 55:25,26,27,28 56:8 59:17 64:4 75:16,19 76:12 77:18 111:10 257:16 282:24

lookout 307:24

loop 249:1

loose 70:28

loss 221:17

lost 17:27 60:1,6

lot 12:14,20 20:13 28:28 54:28 116:11 125:17 149:21,24 189:16,18,27 191:19,27 197:6 201:10 211:20 264:28 319:14

lots 120:9

loud 288:11 289:15

love 31:12

low 140:3

low-emission 289:18

lower 76:14 120:1 181:25 230:5 259:27

Ls 221:16

lucrative 277:6

lumber 45:6 56:11 93:18 159:12,21,23,26 160:10 168:24 178:11 210:1

lunch 80:15 120:4 257:28

lunchtime 170:16

M

M100 125:21

machinery 127:9

made 7:16 20:16 24:1 46:4 63:11 113:19 131:24 144:18 146:1 159:24 164:3 165:2,21 177:16 180:18 190:24 204:3,8,10 224:20 235:1 239:18 243:1 245:19 247:26 251:14 256:22 263:10 267:23, 24 276:27 278:22

Magaw 81:19 158:3,4 191:11

main 42:5 47:3 66:7 73:24 74:1 79:3,7,8,17, 25 80:8 87:3 92:22 94:7 123:22 124:28 125:2 126:26,27 128:1,25 129:12 131:22 141:11 179:11,16 184:16,18,23 205:15 207:14 214:19 215:13 220:6 229:17 232:15 239:24 240:8

maintain 9:15

maintained 259:3

maintaining 189:16 231:2 319:8

maintenance 14:21
16:8 22:10 24:4,11
26:4,6 43:2,6 60:23
62:25 64:21,22 65:11
72:22 80:3 90:18,19
103:23 117:6 124:24
125:7 126:2,13 127:2,3,
11 210:24 214:26
228:23,24 234:14,16
273:24 276:12 288:4,5,
6,14,23 289:22 290:3
306:17,18,19 307:4
318:16,18 319:24,25
320:4

maintenance-of-way 140:15

major 179:24 201:5,6 220:15 222:7 230:15

majority 36:3 46:5 98:28 116:4

make 6:18 7:14 57:28 60:7 70:20 75:9 78:15 90:20 91:1 92:15,18

99:20 107:24 119:22 148:23 162:7 177:7 188:5 193:17,20 197:6 199:23,25 201:1 202:16,18 203:13 204:1,14 217:16 219:3 228:6 233:9 237:2 239:11 245:3 247:18 250:5 264:3 270:26 272:25 274:17 278:1 293:25 294:14 311:23

makes 15:5 42:22,25 51:19 58:25 59:5 91:25 97:5 179:16 190:2 255:26 256:6 302:11

making 9:15 39:11 58:18 63:22,23 126:20 205:24 231:23,24 236:25 245:22 267:18 268:24 269:27 285:8 315:4,6

man 298:5

managed 61:19 294:4

management 221:27

manager 10:7 34:15,17 72:10

managers 12:24

Mangini 53:25

manner 15:19 271:24 272:6,27 282:7,16,20 283:13,20,27

manufactured 56:11

manufacturing 39:12

map 65:1 76:21,25 78:24 79:20 104:24 111:9,10,11,13 112:7,9 149:20 153:7,8,10,12 154:16,18 155:15 168:21,26 169:22 181:19 182:2,3,16 184:4,14 185:5,24 186:7,14,15 223:2,6,22 224:1,9,10,26 228:7,13 231:24 232:24 233:12 234:1,3,10,13 235:4,6, 17,27 249:4,5 274:12, 13,14 275:3,11,17 276:4 285:14,15 288:4, 21

maps 168:6 183:25 232:22 234:23,25,27 235:1,10 242:27 243:2

March 139:22

mark 6:7 33:10 41:23, 28 117:27 168:25 169:10,12 218:22 316:26

marked 6:12,16 33:9, 15 109:26 118:9,23 134:6,9,12,15 168:9,13 169:5,16 181:26,27 182:2,3 211:28 212:5 227:22

market 195:13 208:6 239:7

marketing 11:1 27:2 180:19

marking 99:9 117:26

marks 305:19

mass 58:3

massive 148:27

match 227:22

material 39:13 45:20 148:24 149:4

materials 18:13 29:15, ---20 43:6 45:20 222:7

math 229:6,21

matrix 219:28

matter 32:24 109:13 178:10 243:9,10 246:21 287:18 290:20 295:3 315:26

matters 53:19 244:9

mattress 39:11 144:16

mattresses 39:14

Mayer 198:14

mayor 68:19 69:20

meal 20:3

meaning 14:13 18:24 22:18 40:9 45:5 55:2 57:26 58:19,22 73:4 78:12 93:28 102:26 128:21 139:3 150:22 162:3 163:28 211:1,26 286:12

means 19:21 23:19 40:5 87:20 88:15 149:4 248:16 260:4,18 291:27 296:1 314:25

meant 84:25 199:28

measured 12:1 64:5 103:26.27

measurements 63:20 64:3

mechanical 23:27

mechanism 89:1

mechanisms 195:28

medical 15:12

meet 24:22 31:22 52:12 60:8 109:7 141:16 281:15 317:26

meeting 34:16,18 49:7 159:10

meets 319:5

member 9:18,21 10:19, 23,28 48:21

members 75:8 102:8

memorialized 61:14

memory 56:15 286:16 299:25

Mendo 156:27

Mendocino 5:15,23 7:28 8:13,27 9:7,9,19, 25 10:19,25 11:5 15:18 16:3,13 17:2,6,20 18:16,17 19:10 21:10, 14,26 24:17 25:15,27 26:4,9,14,20 27:6 30:6 31:7 32:7 33:2 34:19 36:9 38:3,8,10,11 39:5, 21 41:9 42:18 43:1 44:1 45:28 46:7,10,12,17 47:12 49:20,27 51:9,13 52:3,6,18,21,27,28 53:5,9 54:18 55:15,21 56:2 57:13 59:7 60:14 62:3,11,18 63:22,24 65:12 66:28 67:4,8 68:17,23,28 69:23 71:15,19,23 73:11 74:5,

13 75:5,26 77:4,6 80:24 81:3,22 82:16,21 83:4, 11,14 85:2,10,28 86:11 93:11 95:15 97:20 99:18,25 100:17,24 101:2,7,11,15,19 102:1, 2,4,18 103:2,3,24 104:4,10 105:3,10,18 106:6,10,18,22 107:1,5, 8,12,14,16 108:2,8,12, 15,21,23,24,27 109:19 110:21,26,28 111:5,26 112:17 130:17,18,22,28 131:3 137:6 140:19 141:1 142:16 144:19 145:17,18 147:17,18, 20,23 148:4,5,7 150:14 151:15,16 152:12 154:3,6,27 155:23,26 156:17 158:9 163:24 164:20,21,24,27 167:18 177:12 179:20 180:14, 18,24 182:10,11 183:18 194:26 202:20 212:22 213:1 214:17 217:9 219:13 220:8,16,23 222:3 223:26 224:11,16 226:24 230:16 235:2,21 236:1 240:14,15 243:8, 18 244:1,15,19,26,28 245:4,7,9,11 247:1,7,9, 24 250:4 251:20 253:20,22 254:9 257:6, 14 261:21,24,28 262:4, 6,17 267:12 268:15 269:9 270:2 271:4,10 272:2,18 273:6 277:25, 27 278:9 282:6 283:18 290:7,16,19 291:20,23 292:11,13 293:10,15 294:7,12 296:25 301:25 303:15,17 305:11 307:1 310:13 314:8,17 315:6. 21 316:2 319:2,13,20

Mendocino's 85:28 293:26

Mendocino- 179:12

mention 14:18 82:13 83:1 211:23 236:26

mentioned 26:23 67:4, 18 74:7,8 77:2 90:4,10 92:3,5 95:18 96:21 100:2 101:26 107:23 112:4 124:1 125:24 126:2 136:26 157:13 158:14 166:1 187:20 194:25 215:6 234:2 245:14 269:2

mentioning 182:28

merge 226:21

merger 147:2

merry-go-round 91:13

mess 28:22

met 77:15 245:26 287:11

methodical 203:23

Meyer 6:4 54:18 62:5 75:13 82:12,15 100:22, 25 101:20 104:11,14 110:19,21 152:21 153:27 154:9,28 191:18 192:2,7 194:15 196:18 197:8 198:9,12 199:11 201:23,24 202:2,4,11 206:4,8,18,21 207:1,16 209:15,28 216:18,28 217:20 219:5,9,17 220:14 221:3,9 223:17 224:11,15 227:19 228:6,12 229:9,23 230:3 231:27,28 233:4, 10 235:3,17,20,22 239:13,15 242:8,18 244:15 245:2,6 247:26 248:13 251:5 252:28 253:5,11,13,22 254:11 255:6,18,23 257:14,21, 22 259:24 261:15,28 262:7 267:14 268:2 274:10,18 275:4 277:28 278:2 279:3,16 284:18 286:11,20,24 287:11,

Meyer's 21:11,15 62:4, 9 80:28 84:2 91:18,19 101:16 110:21 150:15, 19,27 151:17,25 152:17 153:15 154:23 155:4 170:4 196:2 202:22 210:11 220:22 231:19 241:24 243:22 246:15 251:7 257:12 260:15,27 266:13,24 267:23 268:5,25 269:12 270:1

14,17 288:17 315:23

273:23 276:27 278:22 289:23 303:18,21 315:8 316:4,14

Michael 13:3 150:17 151:18,26 248:11

mid 93:16 161:8

mid-page 213:9

middle 66:9 69:7 90:27 100:6 115:8 134:22 135:26 152:13 182:8,9 191:8 224:26 225:21 249:24 294:1

midpoint 46:6

midsection 78:1,3

Mike 55:13 61:10 81:13, 14 101:1,25,26 157:7, 16 158:20,28 188:20 189:10 190:2,10 191:9 194:1 196:25 197:6 198:27 201:1 204:8,27 207:23 218:11 219:22 222:11 223:11,20,24 233:2 238:26 240:23 241:15 242:14 244:13 248:7 249:13,20 252:26 254:17 257:15 260:9,22 261:2 275:17 276:2

Mike's 189:22 192:19 ----225:16

mile 14:16 18:21,23,27 19:11 27:13 30:16 43:24 50:28 51:3 88:18 89:15,16,17,18 96:24 119:25 122:9,25 146:3, 14,15,16,17 319:15

mile/last 30:16

mileage 51:28 52:9

Milepost 122:7

miles 14:16 30:26,27 31:3 43:22 51:21,22 52:1,8,13 94:22 112:5 114:21 116:11 119:12, 21 122:11,13 133:28 142:8,10 147:24 160:25 189:19 307:23 318:3,5 319:3,6,14,15

mill 45:25,26 46:2,28 56:11 87:1 93:18 129:7,

8 159:12 160:16 210:1

Miller 34:15 65:6,8 72:10 81:28 82:1 207:23 216:4,6 217:5 218:12 219:22 220:5 222:11 233:3 249:25 250:9 251:15 252:9 256:25 258:9 272:4 277:5

million 208:4 229:16 239:5,14 242:6

mills 46:10

mind 18:21 21:25 61:8 62:14 77:27 116:10 146:26 159:3 166:28 168:25 176:17

minds 60:28 61:4

mine 11:22 163:28 314:12

mini 148:11

miniature 211:8

minimal 59:23 73:26 144:5 289:14

minimizing 284:9

minute 64:7

minutes 119:23,27 121:7,9,13 122:26,27 123:2,6 242:15 243:5 244:13 245:15 248:8 320:12

mirrors 137:15

mischaracterization 255:25

miserable 177:23

missed 159:15,18,25 160:4,7

missing 37:13 120:16 239:8

mission 15:16 17:28

misspeak 98:22

misstates 274:20

mistake 37:26

mistaken 25:18 37:14

mistakenly 304:1

misunderstandings 209:2

mix 83:21

mobile 193:21 199:22 252:3,8

model 226:19 249:28 251:25 305:19

modern 87:8 289:20

modernization 139:1,

modified 226:18

modify 295:4

modular 242:3

MOE 24:11 124:27

moment 88:23 116:18 143:22

Monday 123:12 320:17

money 122:5 180:19 201:8 203:13,16 204:1, 14 241:20 245:3,7 311:9,10 320:3

month 20:10 25:11 204:25 226:15 233:18 313:4

months 101:20 103:26, 28 137:4 138:22 165:18 215:4,14,22 224:5 238:4,9 277:24 288:21, 22

moratorium 129:28 131:10,20

morning 5:7,8,12 7:5 176:6 241:17

motion 279:22

motor 95:6

motorists 88:3 89:8

mountain 94:2 96:22 99:23 178:7 190:2

mounted 20:21

move 28:6,10,19 29:20 47:16 62:19 73:7 102:27 103:8,9,20 105:21 166:5,12

167:17,18 169:20,21,26 170:3,10 188:4 193:27 196:14,20 214:9 216:13 265:14,21,26 285:10 302:24,25 303:1,10,13

moved 30:18 103:20 195:14 271:9,10 284:22

movement 103:22 148:20 297:26

movements 277:15

moving 18:12 64:15,19 89:22 99:23 189:18 197:4 203:26 272:24 284:17.20

MOW 14:15 79:26 126:22,24,28 127:2 305:15

MTA 71:21,22,23,25 72:2 310:20,22,23 311:19.28

multifrequency 90:6

multiple 26:26 29:1,3, 28 31:14 58:12,23,27 59:4 66:7 79:28 93:3 103:7,9 146:23 147:4 149:17 284:25 312:27

municipal 37:16,22 38:1,4,12,14,22 4<u>6:20</u> 298:7

museum 25:16

mute 6:18 7:23 25:1

muted 6:18,20 7:7,18 24:25

mutually 40:9 41:4

Ν

Nadel 7:5

named 84:14

names 84:18 158:15 307:20 309:5,12,13

Nancy 134:14

Napa 129:6 300:1

narrow 76:20 90:28 98:5 161:26 211:23 **narrower** 97:16 98:13, 15 100:4

nation 298:5

national 129:5 179:9

natural 57:26 66:13,18, 21,23,25 69:9 78:4,11, 14 80:13 94:8,9 95:19 97:1,5,12 98:7 100:5 161:28 200:25 211:24 240:10 282:25,26 285:22,28 286:21

nature 147:15

navigating 70:20

NCBC 159:10

NCRA 41:9,19,21 76:6 77:9 78:27 79:2 126:26 128:1,4,6,25,28 129:4, 11,12 130:1,3,12 131:7, 10,20,25,27 132:1,22 146:27 147:26 179:16 184:18

NCRA's 77:5 79:8

necessarily 23:9 25:8 31:24 116:19 146:26 165:9 197:23 201:9 204:4 230:23 238:19 310:11 319:17

-necessity 269:26 270:3,9 271:1,18 272:27 281:5

needed 5:17 14:12 22:26 62:27,28 63:4,7 97:13 98:26 127:9 154:8,11 162:27 163:18 219:3 272:24,25 274:2 290:1 306:25 314:28

needing 87:19

negative 217:22

negligence 139:7,9

negotiation 208:7 219:9

neighbors 288:24

net 221:15,16

Newberger 63:19

nice 31:10 160:19 230:6 253:16

nicely 237:8

nickname 112:20

night 171:2 241:10

nightmare 32:3

Nillson 222:12 233:3

Nilsson 81:18 151:2 157:25 158:1 191:10

Nilsson's 157:28

nod 255:10.20

noise 6:21

noisier 289:6

NOL 250:18,23

non-operation 123:12

nonetheless 16:26

nonresidents 309:25

normal 162:20

north 14:11 26:11 38:27 40:11,12 41:3,5 42:6 43:11 44:23 45:1 57:5 72:22 78:2 79:4 98:2 125:18,20 126:7, 10,23 128:20 129:2 132:1,24 133:6,9 145:11 155:6,7 168:26 169:5 183:16 212:11,18 234:2,7

north-hand 94:5

northeast 76:5

Norther 260:2

northern 42:4 51:20 53:5 81:20 100:14 128:28 129:2 133:7 158:5 300:6

northernmost 133:8

Northspur 20:4 46:6 117:21,24

northwest 64:17

northwestern 40:19 73:27 78:27 124:22 126:26 131:6 146:28 147:25

nose 74:12

notably 226:19

notation 99:10

notch 289:12

note 193:22 221:14 251:19

notebook 314:13

noted 119:4

notes 99:6 305:20,23

notice 42:15 53:17 54:1,6 74:2 109:22 263:16 264:4,14,17 265:6 266:14 278:2 280:14 291:3,9 292:2, 18 294:27 299:11 302:26,27 303:1,2,3,5, 6,24

notion 227:1 277:2

notions 231:1

Noyo 46:1 111:21

null 133:2

number 14:21 24:28 25:3 51:24 52:15 59:8 75:16 85:13,16 167:22 176:14 187:12 198:3 201:15 205:16 209:18 225:19 258:12 261:26 284:8,9,11 295:1 300:18 305:17,19

numbers 52:17 156:25 216:14 304:26.27

numerous 100:16

nurses 233:27

NWP 79:3

0

Oakdale 52:24

oath 5:6 80:19 176:5

object 8:5 9:2 53:14 301:13

objection 36:13 47:18 48:4 50:16 61:26 74:22, 26 105:23 109:24 132:12 143:27 169:23, 28 170:6,20,23 264:16

265:17,18,23 266:4 269:14 270:11,12 272:8 274:20 284:1 304:5,7, 25 316:15

oblige 315:19

obtain 154:7 254:11 256:3,11,13 259:19

obtained 139:19 153:1 222:3 256:23 257:2,5,

obtains 103:25

obtuse 180:10

occasion 12:19 306:21

occasions 25:4

occupancy 221:20

occupy 21:25

occupying 135:10

occur 137:3 138:8 139:9 150:3 226:24 276:26 284:10 315:8

occurred 6:23 136:25 138:17,18,25,27

occurs 119:26 250:20

October 105:4

odd 209:17 215:13

offend 206:13

offer 8:28 32:7 36:11 53:12 61:25 68:5 74:20, 24 104:9,10 107:18 109:22 116:12 159:23, 24 206:13 254:5

offered 32:26 117:21 310:12

offering 270:21

offers 113:12 143:5

offhand 105:8 243:16

office 26:25,26 62:26 66:1 210:25 226:20,21 237:6

officer 82:1 102:8 177:5 216:7 217:10 272:2

officers 81:22,24 272:3

offices 24:9,10 26:24 66:3 276:13

official 53:15,17 54:3 136:5 262:3

officially 140:7 268:5

offloaded 46:26

offloading 214:14

oftentimes 90:20 158:15 211:6

OL 250:24

oldest 156:23

oncoming 88:3 94:25

one- 103:17

one-and-a-half 242:6

one-way 308:4

ongoing 40:26 87:15 142:26 143:1 179:28 180:12 202:24 204:5,20 237:14 273:18 312:10 319:25

online 30:21

open 14:25 31:12 38:5 39:21 40:25 127:18 196:28 205:20 209:23

opened 32:17 63:10

opening 292:25

opens 32:19,20 97:16

operate 13:26 77:26 79:8,17 119:22,28 129:26 131:13 133:19 140:19 143:2 215:12 232:16 284:9 314:28

operated 115:20,22 294:4

operates 111:1,27 112:1 140:25 227:4

operating 30:22 31:4 101:8,11,12 115:15 123:23 142:17,20 220:11 221:15 289:19 313:5

operation 9:15 10:10 11:13,14 14:11 29:25 38:9,11 39:4,16 58:8 102:15 111:5 112:13,28 118:21 122:21,22 123:11 126:13,21 130:1 135:12 146:9 161:13 193:3,5 194:22 195:15 196:2,7 214:27 215:11 227:15 238:8 252:13,14 263:5 288:9 290:13,14 292:11 315:14 320:5

operational 120:17

operations 10:8,9,13 11:4,5,11,12 12:23,25 13:22 15:19,27 16:5 17:4 18:11,15 24:8,15 27:26 42:19 43:2 51:9, 27 55:20 57:15 59:10, 12 79:8 117:6 119:5 120:18 126:6 142:23, 25,27 143:1 161:4,7 190:6 196:9,16 202:6 204:6 214:15,25 251:17 261:22 273:18 279:14 281:20 293:26 298:18 312:11 314:22,26 318:21 319:20

operator 131:6

operators 48:23 49:17 298:17

opine 195:6

opinion 8:19,23,26 156:21 195:22 200:8,10 203:22 219:4 230:2,11, 13 253:20 256:2 270:15,22,26 282:6,7 283:18,19

opinions 302:9

opportunities 11:9 166:17 247:7

opportunity 43:27 97:25 109:1,2 120:3 159:20 160:7 245:27 282:14 297:12

opposite 86:27 88:7 89:14,18 90:1,17 310:15

optimal 61:11

option 76:13 91:5 156:13 209:16

options 70:9,11,12 179:2 214:8 219:24 233:9 277:23

orange 63:28 127:26 128:16 182:13,14 184:27 186:9

order 6:9 28:5 33:11,16 39:4 57:19 58:4,7,17 62:24 80:1 86:17 94:25 98:11 99:18 109:6,27 117:28 130:2,3 141:7 147:5 150:5 156:21 197:23 198:3,4 271:11 272:23 277:10 281:14, 19 282:1,15 317:15

ordered 23:19

organization 11:27 13:15 41:17 61:19 70:2 75:9 101:23 203:23 232:13

organizations 31:8

organized 35:10 141:4

orient 99:5

orientation 72:19 168:26

original 17:28 114:19 239:6

originally 114:4 136:24.25

OTM 126:8

outbound 51:25

outbuildings 210:23

outcome 85:23 102:24

outgoing 142:23,25

outlets 134:23

outline 224:15

outlined 54:20,23 57:9 66:14 168:14 182:17

outright 205:22

overcome 66:23 78:13

overflow 65:28

overhead 127:20 289:1

overlay 64:4 275:28

overlook 217:7

overly 147:14

overpriced 239:19

oversee 111:4

overseeing 152:2

oversight 9:14

overview 73:20 142:24,27 312:11

owned 21:26 40:10,11 51:21,28 54:17 124:20 128:1 148:4 160:16 190:14 294:4

owner 16:21 46:5 128:6 193:22,23,26 201:15 284:24

owner/president 39:11

owners 45:24 69:5 97:26 157:19 178:23 189:8 229:7 284:25

ownership 156:1,4 183:26

owning 277:8

owns 76:4 77:21 111:1 142:2 147:24 153:27 178:25 286:11,14<u>.15</u> 288:17 307:2

Ρ

p.m. 93:17 242:14 243:5 248:8 249:13

paced 64:3

Pacific 40:12,19 78:27 79:14 124:22 126:26 131:6 146:28 147:1,2, 25 149:23 243:25 298:3

pack 127:8 166:9

package 109:18

packaging 45:16

packet 291:5

packing 167:12

pages 36:27 51:19 67:18,26,27 68:26

69:10 72:14 93:9 95:28 156:25 197:17,20,26 310:2

paid 208:4 219:27 227:3

painting 319:26

pallets 56:11

pandemic 83:23

paper 16:14 45:9 241:23

paper,and 45:14

paragraph 87:12 91:24 146:19 159:8 160:14 162:23 166:4 177:3,18 181:10 188:2 189:14,25 190:13 191:14,16 193:14 196:13 205:13, 23,24 206:6,17 216:18 226:14 227:14,19 229:6,20 230:2 241:16 242:1 251:22 253:28 259:23 261:20 273:14 279:11,18

paragraphs 8:3 189:7 285:7

parallel 59:4 66:7 73:25 237:7

parcel 21:23 59:14,15
60:3 64:18 98:4 123:25
153:8,20,28 154:4,7,8
160:15,24 161:13
167:22 168:14,16,17,28
177:19,25 182:26,28
183:3,5,8,11,12 185:5,
12,22 186:19,20,21,23
189:2 191:2 194:15
201:6 212:5,8,11,16,17,
22,23,26 213:2,8,13,14,
26 214:18,21 224:7
225:7 234:2 242:1,2
261:26 278:1

parcels 56:10 60:13 79:28 153:20,24 155:9, 14 162:14,18 182:17,23 183:7,15,17,19 184:27 194:17 212:16 246:16, 24 259:10,12 262:24 286:14,15

pardon 105:16

parent 11:8

parentheses 159:10, 11 273:16

parenthesis 189:9

park 28:23 164:25 165:5 205:17 224:27 225:10,14 227:23 229:13,15 230:24 252:4,7,8 275:3 276:28 277:3 290:9,12,14

parked 14:13

parking 62:26 65:25, 27,28 73:22 92:16 125:17 149:21,24 162:26 163:17 193:18 210:16 225:22 227:8, 22,25 233:16 237:1 259:1 276:13 287:26

parks 252:3

part 12:4,10 14:2 22:27 24:7,13 36:17 41:17 47:7 51:10 66:28 67:27 71:8,17 73:27 93:16 95:23 102:1,2 112:27 115:10 125:25 135:4 141:4 151:14 154:3 161:3,6 162:20 164:15 166:13 187:17,24 188:28 193:2,5 204:13, 20 212:6,7,13 215:28 231:1,3 251:13 252:16 275:14,15 276:2,4 284:21,23 295:12,13

partial 226:23

participate 48:27 65:2

participates 81:28

parties 63:10 68:10,12 109:9

partner 69:20 205:15 310:13

partners 205:25

partnership 205:21

party 42:13 160:11

pass 71:28 79:14 88:9

passage 19:23,27

passed 138:20 139:12,

27 310:23

passenger 10:12 11:24 16:5 17:3,19,21 18:14,17 20:6,26,28 25:23 42:19 49:21 50:12,20 65:26 71:4,5, 7,16 72:3,21 106:5,10, 17,22 107:1,6,9,13 116:9,20 117:13,19 139:13 141:17 142:23, 25,26 143:1,5 164:2 192:28 273:18 279:14 295:5,6,25 297:26 298:23,25 311:28 312:10 313:12 318:2,4

passengers 72:24 112:28 113:3,24 114:3, 10,24,28 115:19,21 121:16 122:4 123:23,24 156:3 226:5,7 297:12 310:14 312:15,24 318:12

passes 38:19 71:26 89:13 94:4 154:28

passing 14:24 139:4

past 25:14 71:20,25 117:21 150:12 156:3 159:11 180:21 183:23 294:19

path 63:12 69:21 165:10 237:2 256:18

pattern 28:20

pause 22:4

pay 122:4 259:27 311:10

paying 23:22,23 159:2 239:6

pedal-powered .140:27

pedestrian 87:28 88:3

pen 57:8

people 18:5 71:12,28 85:18 113:10,13 141:1 189:11 191:27 211:11 250:28 251:11 296:9 309:10,28 310:8 314:3, 4

people's 208:21

Pepsico 16:21

percent 86:5 178:8 252:4.5

perfect 7:20 160:15,24, 26 161:1

perform 13:1

period 23:23 37:19 87:22 89:7 94:23 103:24 140:4 161:4 238:9 246:20,23 247:6

periods 106:7,19 107:27

periphery 187:19

permanent 211:10

permanently 20:20

permission 128:10

permit 31:26 207:8

perpendicular 46:24 73:28

person 19:26 30:16,17 83:20,24 103:6 166:3 203:21,23 215:10 216:6 238:2 286:11 294:5 311:13,15 313:28 320:23

personal 144:16 215:15 293:22 294:3

personally 293:15

personnel 27:1

persons 294:8,11 301:6

perspective 61:12 191:24 194:1

Pete 188:7

Peter 76:3,4,12

Peters 182:23,24 183:5,12,15 184:20 185:5

Peters' 183:17

petitioner's 6:16 33:15 36:15 48:7 54:10 61:28 75:1 105:26 110:4

petting 210:26 237:1

PG&E 18:25

phone 12:16,20 83:19, 21 166:2 192:5 201:3 202:5 205:4 206:24 238:1

phonetic 178:26

photo 135:15

photograph 92:13 134:17,22 154:19 168:13 170:4 212:4 223:17 275:27

photographs 168:2 170:22 265:27 316:24 320:10

photos 266:4

physical 63:25

physically 15:28 127:19

pick 12:15 18:26 20:2,7 156:2 167:16 202:5

picks 135:23

picnic 120:4

picture 20:18 90:26 98:23 125:1,4,21 126:9 135:26 163:3

pictures 43:3 124:26 168:1 293:22 294:2

piece 14:26 23:28 54:17,24,27 55:1,4 56:8 57:27 58:1 60:7 63:5 73:20 76:15 80:1 85:14 93:1,17,22,24,25,28 96:3,5 97:16 98:5 127:21 135:10 142:2 177:26 178:1 184:19 186:10 200:24 201:11 211:23 220:19 231:21, 22 243:13 286:10 290:17,20

pieces 73:7 84:19 289:2

pink 100:11,14

Pinoli 5:5,12,13 7:27 8:25 9:6 34:8 48:16 54:13 80:18,23 110:18,

25 134:12 151:8 152:5 157:9 170:18 176:5,10, 22 191:10 198:9 203:4 212:4 222:27 231:11 233:3 236:12 258:5 261:8 266:12 270:26 272:9 279:26 282:6 285:13 299:10 301:15, 27 305:6 311:21 312:7 317:2 320:23

Pinoli's 48:2 54:1 279:7

pioneered 30:12

pit 14:13 22:13 24:5 26:8,9,10,11 42:7 43:10 64:23 126:22,23 127:12,13 128:17,18,20 133:10 228:26,28 234:18,19 252:18 289:1

pits 238:15

pivot 98:18

place 15:16 19:8 29:2, 6,15 30:8 40:13 56:24 57:26 62:11 85:17 102:26 106:21 107:20 130:2,3 131:11 135:21 136:6,16 162:26 165:28 166:1,7,9 167:3 171:1 191:4 208:3 230:6 234:25 235:20 237:21 268:12 276:20 308:16

placement 187:22

places 182:10

plaintiff 110:5 273:16 279:13 303:17 320:18

plaintiff's 273:17 303:5,16,19,21

plaintiffs 265:17

plan 17:16 24:2 25:27 48:25 49:9,12 50:2,11 51:20 60:25,26,27 61:22 62:11,17 65:3 66:26 72:17,18 145:27 199:17,24,25 202:16, 18,21,25,27 228:6,12 238:13 276:5,7,9,10,17, 19,21,23,26,28 277:18 282:7 285:14,16,20,21 288:20 289:26,27 290:4,21 319:27

planned 99:27 271:23 272:5

planning 11:3 12:22 16:3,8 203:12

plans 11:11,15,17,23, 25,26 12:11,17 13:9 15:18 16:13,15,25 17:2, 11,15 21:7 26:1 63:3,16 67:18 72:14 238:21

plant 31:20

platform 237:7

play 63:2 162:17 216:20 217:13

plaved 179:24

plenty 20:24 87:13 191:21 192:13

point 8:21 17:5 26:2 38:22 66:16 86:14 92:21,23 94:22 98:18 113:27 117:18 119:26 121:7,19 128:21,28 129:1,2,4 136:28 139:19 149:20 161:25 163:3 165:19 166:7 171:2 188:3 196:12 201:2,18 204:13 206:12 208:23 217:22 218:13 230:10,19,25 231:4,18 235:13 244:19 250:16. 25 251:10,24,27,28 252:3 254:8 272:19 275:7 299:20,21 301:7 302:23 308:21 311:27 320:10

pointer 75:27

pointing 153:15 181:22 213:21 285:25

points 82:13 117:24 225:3 251:26

pond 212:19,23,26 234:6

pool 211:2,3 229:17,27

poor 19:13

popularity 251:21

Port 134:23

portal 15:23 35:14 135:24,27 137:13,14, 17,19,21

portion 11:4 14:26 36:2,6 41:25 76:25,28 128:10,14 132:24 155:4,11,17,22 169:2,4 182:4,13,14 212:5 226:9 233:17 234:4,8 250:17,18 259:20 260:21 286:1,8,20 287:12,15,24 288:4 300:23

position 9:13 68:21 150:2 189:28 219:18,19 275:1

positions 10:27

possession 102:18 103:3,25

possibilities 59:23

possibly 37:20 217:21 319:7

post 18:21,22,23 19:11 43:24

posted 64:1

potential 16:27 28:27 30:21 31:17 56:4 67:5 70:7 75:5,15 80:24 82:17,22 83:6 85:16 117:23 162:11 163:9 177:15 185:1 205:28 233:9 236:1 241:3 244:23,25 259:18,19 267:13

potentially 77:7,15 110:23 116:24 127:14 162:14 164:25 177:13 184:26 190:4 200:14 206:3 211:17 212:15 218:15 220:21 246:2, 14,16 251:6 254:23,25 260:13,26 262:1 268:1, 5 270:1 277:6

pounds 317:11,17,18, 19

power 18:25 127:8 162:24 266:18 267:6 268:20 269:24 289:14 powered 140:26

powers 302:1

PR 216:24

practical 86:6

practice 251:6 266:22

practices 14:7

praiseworthy 196:14

precedent 266:18 267:6 268:20

preclude 211:25 287:25

precluded 286:5

precludes 147:10

preempted 314:27

preemption 316:10,13

preempts 316:3

preexisting 72:26

preliminary 152:10 153:2 169:27 285:14,16

prepare 60:14,25,27

prepared 5:22 12:24 34:15 54:4 61:1 62:17 63:16 65:5 112:7,9 __145:28 148:25 152:11 223:21 224:1 235:2,7, 21 236:1 243:2 252:12 285:18 305:21

preparing 65:8

prescribed 40:24

presence 270:28

present 54:28 108:25 113:20,22 114:14 133:21 139:16 142:15 144:3,11 149:13 166:18 200:25 238:18 245:6 284:10 296:9 312:13

presentation 17:9

presentations 49:6

presented 44:18,19 97:26 264:19

presently 9:9 26:21 103:1 108:24 114:10 130:12 131:9,11 144:2 145:1,8,10,12,14,19,21, 23,25 281:20

preservation 102:13

preserve 285:22

president 9:9,23,24, 26,28 10:1,4,5,6,15,18, 22,24 11:2,3 12:5,27 55:14 61:10 81:14,16, 19,20 102:7 110:25 157:14,16 158:2,4,6 216:9,10 223:25

president/ceo 151:22

press 193:28 194:11

pressure 219:5

presumption 85:2

pretty 16:25 27:18,19 42:25 69:8 94:2,10,16 211:26 255:27 289:15

prevalent 125:2

prevent 57:28 216:23 285:28

preventing 131:9,20

prevention 177:5

prevents 135:9

previous 59:16 232:24 248:9 256:17 310:2

previously 9:7 25:17 33:28 179:15 189:6 245:20 255:21 256:17 268:21 269:2 275:14 276:1 277:2

price 201:20 239:7,12, 25 242:19 259:27

prices 210:11

primarily 14:8 211:20

primary 74:11 100:10, 12 136:20 226:3,5,6 233:15 297:10

principal 65:6 150:20

principals 18:8 151:4

print 170:18 171:9,14 239:10

printed 6:2 118:19 120:13,14 121:22

170:14 171:6 314:13

printout 118:18

prior 9:28 10:24 11:2, 10,15,17 16:28 21:2 32:14 63:22 67:3,7 82:24 192:5 234:25 235:2 245:21 257:23 268:16 269:28 271:2 273:11 301:10

private 230:21 271:25 272:7 273:1 281:8 282:21 283:14,28 284:3 290:8 310:3

privilege 261:5

proactively 31:8

problem 32:2,3,4 42:23 60:10 95:2 133:22 136:24 137:1,5,7,24,25 138:1,4,12,14,18 139:15,19 195:16 214:10 245:17 304:22

problematic 197:3

problems 23:27 60:12 70:4 136:27 138:25,27 183:24

Procedure 264:14,15 266:17 280:11

proceed 63:23 68:23 246:18 248:10 254:3 302:2 320:5

proceeding 309:26

process 13:8 17:1,8
56:1 58:21 63:24 68:14
70:6 103:18 136:17
139:20,22 150:19,25,27
151:6,15,17 154:3
162:9 179:25 194:24
200:2 206:22,23 207:10
208:24 217:26 218:8,26
225:13 245:17,25
246:27,28 247:1,3,9
260:26 261:3 262:1,18
263:23 275:26 279:22
280:25 282:22 295:12,
14 301:25 307:18

produce 45:9,12

produced 44:15 52:14 53:4 235:25 236:4

product 29:4

production 39:13

products 45:9,10

profession 85:22

professional 215:16

profit 208:5 221:17

program 71:27 139:23, 24 311:11,12,13,16

prohibitive 30:23 42:25 57:28 96:16,28 97:5,18 107:24 184:23

project 11:19 21:11,14 22:7,27 24:7,14 51:10, 13,14 57:24 59:13 63:15 66:28 67:4 74:14 75:4,6,16,26 77:7,23 78:9 80:5,25 81:4 82:18,22 83:6 86:1,11 87:10 91:16 95:16,18 97:9 98:26 99:20,26 102:5,20 103:8,9,19,25 104:3 105:3,10,14,18 107:14,15 108:22,23,28 144:8 150:11 190:25 191:2 192:2 203:26 204:1,14 207:15 224:6 249:16,17 262:24 269:25,26 270:3,10 271:2.19,23 272:5,25--- 273:15,16,17,21 274:8, 16 275:25,26 278:17,25 279:12,18 281:6,10,12, 26,28 282:7,19 283:13, 19,27 315:9

projects 12:25 13:10 158:15 159:3 278:21

proper 93:4 142:8 162:10 187:14 194:3 204:2,11,15 283:5

properly 27:26 109:6

properties 15:26 16:2 38:26 55:16,19,22,25, 26,27,28 59:16 67:5 75:25 77:1,5,8,14 81:1, 3,5 95:27 97:19 107:21, 22 124:2 177:13,16 220:1,7 221:6 231:13 233:10 241:4,7,8,9 268:24 282:23,25 property 16:18,19,21, 22 21:11,15,24,25 46:5 54:17,19,22,24,27,28 55:1,3,5,7,10,16 56:9, 12,13,28 57:1,8,11,27 58:1,4 59:14 60:8 62:4, 9,19,28 63:5,9,14,17, 24,26,27 64:5,7,13 66:12,17,22 67:3,9,24, 25 68:15.18.20.24 69:3. 5,6,8,24 70:1,18,23 73:19,21 74:14,17 75:10,12,14 76:1,2,4, 12,15,22,23,24,27,28 77:10.11.12.18.20.23 78:8,10,23,25 79:19 80:1,6,26,27,28 81:6 82:10,12,14,25 83:2 84:2,19 86:9,12 87:10 91:17,18,19 92:9,17 93:5,17.19.20.21.23.24. 25,28 94:7,12,14,16,18 95:16 96:3,4,5,8,11,15, 18,25 97:1,3,6,16,23,24 98:6,9,10,11 99:19,26 100:1,3,4,8,9,26 101:3, 12,13,16 102:5,19,24 103:1,3,26 104:5 105:4, 11,19 107:15,16 126:20,25 142:2 146:13 150:15,19,27 151:17,26 152:14,17,25,26 153:15 154:21,23,28 155:4 160:20 162:1 164:18 166:6 167:2.26 168:1.3. 5,8 169:2,5,7,8,13 170:5 177:6,22,26,27, 28 178:1,4,10,11,18,22 179:2,3 180:3,8 181:11, 16,24 182:5 184:19,20 185:3,22 186:3,10,12, 13 187:9 188:26 189:5 190:21 191:18 192:2,7 193:19,23 194:15 195:13 196:2 197:5 199:18,27 200:1,14,18, 21,24,27 201:5,11,14, 17 202:10,28 206:19,22 207:2,16 208:21 209:27,28 210:1,4,8,11, 21,28 211:16,19,22,24 212:8,11,13,15 214:1,3, 13 215:1,3,5,8 216:20, 21,24,25,28 217:1,20 219:5,10 220:15,18,19, 22,24,27 221:3,7,9

223:17 224:11,16 225:3 227:20 228:6,12 229:9, 23 230:3,20 231:14,15, 19,21,22,27 232:4,23 235:5,17,20 236:2,22, 27 237:5,12,13 239:13. 19,25 240:2,17,26,28 241:18 243:13 245:20, 21 246:3,10,15 247:26 250:16,20 251:1 253:9 254:11 255:27 257:12, 15,21,22 259:1,5,10,13, 19,20 260:15,27 261:22,25 262:1 266:24,28 267:14,19,23 268:2,5,16,26 269:13. 24 270:1 271:13,14 272:22 273:23 274:10, 18 275:4 276:27 278:23 279:13,19 280:10,23 281:4.21 282:27 283:1 284:18,24,25 286:8,10. 11,23 287:12,15,24 290:8,11,17,21 293:23 294:3,5,8,11 301:6 310:3 314:23 315:8 316:4,14

proposal 224:15,22

proposed 24:19 25:19 35:3 37:28 269:25

proprieties 56:4 77:17

pros 219:28

protected 86:24

Protection 141:9

proved 69:20

provide 6:1,24 24:23 39:21 51:10,14 66:3 106:10,22 107:9,12 108:2,16,21,24,26 146:21 157:11 192:25 216:16 222:10 264:5 268:13 293:18 297:11 298:2 301:1,11

provided 6:2 31:14 33:23,24 44:26 49:4,21 50:12 52:18 106:5,17 107:1,26 108:8 111:10 262:22 276:5 277:28 279:17 291:4 296:13 298:11,17 303:15 304:12 **providing** 31:7 46:12 47:13 107:5 108:12 298:23,25 300:21

provisions 295:28

proximity 57:21 87:5 282:12,13 283:24

PU 295:28

public 5:15,23 8:1,27 35:11 71:16,20 106:6, 11,18,23 107:2,6,10,27 108:3,9,13,17 109:16, 20 230:21 232:4.11 247:11,15 269:26 270:2,9 271:1,18,25 272:7,26,28 280:10,22 281:5,8 282:8,21 283:14,20,28 284:2,18, 19 291:12 292:14,18, 19,20,21,23,26 293:7 294:4,28 296:4,22,24 297:19,22 298:3,24,26 299:15 301:28 310:4 313:22.27 318:22

published 54:4

PUC 265:6 295:1,14 297:2,6,20

Pudding 118:24 119:2, 10 120:21,24 121:8 134:3 136:19 143:3,10,

Puerto 216:21

pull 59:2 123:20 151:9 264:2

pull/pull 122:21

pulled 35:16 118:13 168:6

pulling 94:28

pulls 122:21

pumping 29:3

punch 310:24,26

purchase 16:17,24 67:24,27 68:1,2,6 69:26 104:9,10 159:20,23 161:8 201:17 205:22,28 216:28 217:1 224:16 229:10 239:6,14 248:26 253:8,11 257:15 259:19 purchased 72:1 74:14 124:22 205:19 239:25 242:1

purchasing 159:19 177:15 201:14,16 220:21,23

purpose 23:7 58:25 74:10 109:4 146:12 179:11 231:28 265:1 289:1 297:11

purposes 74:11 113:9, 16 116:2,6,8,16 207:3 224:23 256:15 266:25 313:13

pursuant 44:2

pursue 68:23 69:23 199:27 247:25,26 257:7 277:22

pursued 257:23

pursuing 199:28

push 88:1,5 127:10 191:27 248:11,17

push/pull 122:21

pushing 88:13 91:4,8, 20 156:8,13 195:17,23 197:2 209:17

put 16:14 38:21 41:28 42:1 63:8 68:20 89:6 95:20 130:3 135:21 136:6,16 137:20 146:13 148:24 159:23,24 168:25 169:9 185:20 190:3,4 194:7 205:19 207:5 211:5 219:5,9,17, 19 230:23 232:14,22 253:1 264:28 280:3 288:20,21 290:3 304:21

puts 96:13

putting 36:4 80:7 91:12 95:21 203:27 207:11 289:1 301:7

Q

qualifications 141:17 quality 223:2

quarter 88:18 89:15,17,

18 91:12 283:2

quest 178:25

question 8:13 29:13 32:21 96:17 105:17 108:19 129:9 132:13, 15,26 143:18 151:14, 19,21,24 152:1,25 171:4 179:6 190:26 192:1 200:12,26 203:28 210:18 218:22,27 220:13,25 224:12 228:9 232:9 235:14,15 254:15 256:20 257:1 259:6 269:9,16 270:13,27 271:2,5 272:10,12,16 274:22 275:16,24 277:22 279:11,26 280:19 281:26,28 282:4 283:12,18,23,26 284:2, 4,5,6,23 286:19 291:22, 25 296:23,26 297:1 302:5,16 312:10,23 313:1,6,9,12 314:2 315:12,18 316:18 320:2

question-and-answer 312:6

questioning 301:14

questions 109:11 156:12 159:6 208:17 223:7 315:11,17 316:27 320:24

quick 61:24 188:22 299:3

quicker 15:7,15

quickly 70:12 94:3 96:22 97:8 103:2 262:18

quotations 179:6 295:27 300:22

quote 279:15

quote/unquote 18:18 84:9

quotes 279:12

R

R.J. 53:25,26 188:7

radio 90:7,13

radius 74:4

rail 10:7 11:22 14:10 15:27 16:6 17:4,15,21 18:17,20 20:16,20,25, 26 22:11,14,28 23:7,26 24:7 25:23 27:16,18,21, 27 28:3 29:2,21,26,28 30:3,12,24 31:10,11 37:23 38:14,19 39:21 40:11 41:5,25 43:14 44:2,25 45:2 46:12 47:13 48:21,25 49:8,17, 21 50:8,12 51:27 52:17, 20 54:25 55:4 57:4,5,14 58:13,20 63:28 66:5 71:1,5,7 72:3 73:2,6 78:5,10,14 87:18 88:16 90:4,26 91:3 93:28 106:5,10,17,22 107:1,6, 9,13,26 108:2,8,13,16, 22 109:9 127:11,20 129:5 132:10,11 134:28 135:1,9,12,14,16,23 139:3 140:20,22,23,24 141:22,24 142:7,8,13, 17,23,25,26 143:1,15 145:27 146:21 148:13, 20,28 180:15 191:22 192:14 196:7,8 220:4 232:14 273:18 276:12 279:14 282:13 283:2 288:26 312:11,22,24 319:24 320:4

rail-mounted 14:27 195:18

railroad 9:8 10:9,11,26 11:24 12:5,27 14:6 15:9,10 16:17 17:8,23, 26,27 18:1,5,6,13 19:4, 16,18,19,22 21:27 22:3 23:10 30:13 37:16 38:1, 15 40:11,12,18,19 41:9 44:6,24 47:5 50:13,20 52:8 55:2,14,20,23 56:5 57:20,22,27 59:10 63:2 64:14,20 66:20 71:26 72:24,25 73:9 75:10 76:6 79:21 81:15,21,24 82:5 85:14 86:26 93:1, 12,27 97:28 98:2,14 100:14 102:13 106:7.19 107:2 108:9 109:3,4 111:1,14 112:5,18,19 113:5,10,12,16,19

115:20,22,25 116:1,11 117:7 118:14,16 123:16,18,22 124:3,19, 21,23 125:19 126:13,20 127:11,24,25 128:9 130:12,19,21,22 131:3, 6,18,19 132:21,23 133:18 134:3 135:4,6,7 137:7 139:24 140:11,14 141:7,11 142:1,2 143:5, 13,25 144:9,28 145:2,9, 13,17,18,20,24 146:28 147:18,26 148:3,8,9 149:6,23 151:23 153:21 154:28 157:14,19,21 158:6 159:18 160:19 161:4,6,9 162:4,5 164:1,4 180:20 181:1,4 184:17 191:20,26 192:25,27 193:5,7,9,11, 12 194:10 195:3 204:6 213:26 215:12 223:25 224:28 225:24 232:16 240:6 241:12 247:5,17, 19 260:2 261:22 275:7 277:10,11,23 281:14, 16,18 282:2,15 286:1,7 290:14,23,26 291:1,13, 21 292:11,27 293:3,8, 11,16,17,25 294:1,8,15, 16 295:4 296:11,14,17, 20 297:24 300:6 302:1 305:15 307:22 310:13 311:7 312:19 314:22,26 317:25 319:5 320:2

railroad's 14:2,22 40:16 43:22 54:25 57:7 59:18 69:12 94:7 96:16, 18,25 99:4 107:17 119:5 125:17 126:24 166:18 181:7 231:16 281:20 283:25 314:28 319:8

railroad-owned 193:8

railroad-type 193:3

railroading 42:24 87:22 289:10,13

railroads 19:17 25:20 27:12 40:8 47:11 50:4 79:12,13,16,17 86:4 146:15,20,22,24 306:26 315:13

rails 73:5 88:24 306:26

railway 8:13,27 9:7,10, 19,25 10:1,19,25 16:3 17:2,6,20 18:18 21:11. 15,27 25:27 26:4,9,14, 20 27:6 30:7 31:7 32:7 33:2 36:9 38:3,8,11 39:5,21 41:9 43:1 46:12,17 47:13 49:20 51:9,13,20 52:18,21,28 53:5,9 54:18 55:21 56:2 57:13,16 59:7,10 60:14 62:3,11,18 63:23,24 65:12 66:28 67:4,8 68:23,28 69:23 71:15, 19 73:11 74:5,13 75:26 77:4 81:4,20,22 85:2,10 86:11 93:11 95:15 97:20 99:18,25 100:17 101:2,8,11,15,19 102:1, 2,4,18 103:2,4,24 104:4,10 105:3,10,18 106:6,10,18,22 107:1,5, 8,12,14,16 108:2,9,12, 15,21,23,24,27 110:21, 28 111:5,26 112:17 137:6 140:19 141:1 144:19 147:20 148:4,5, 7 150:14 151:15,16 154:3,6,27 158:5,9 164:21,27 167:18 177:12 179:21 180:18 182:10,11 183:18 202:20 212:22 213:1 214:17 217:9 219:13 220:8,16,23 222:3 223:26 224:11,16 226:25 230:17 235:2,21 236:1 243:8,18 244:1, 15,19,26,28 245:4,7,9, 11 247:1,8,9,24 250:4 251:20 253:21,22 254:9 257:7,14 261:21,24,28 262:4,6,17 267:12 268:15 269:10 270:2 271:4,10 272:2,18 273:6 277:28 278:10 290:7,16,19,20 291:20, 23 292:13,27 293:15 294:12 301:26 303:15 307:2 314:8,17 315:6, 21 319:2

railway's 5:15,23 7:28 11:5 15:18 16:13 31:15 34:20 42:18 44:2 68:18 75:5 77:6 80:24 82:17, 21 83:5,11,14 85:28 100:24 109:19 164:21 240:14,15 262:4 277:25 282:6 283:19 292:11 303:17 319:13,20

Railways 110:26 142:16 147:17,23 164:24 293:10 296:25 316:2

rains 19:6 raising 218:27 rambling 259:26

ran 60:10 129:11 138:15

Ranch 18:24

range 53:6 94:2 96:22 178:7 221:22

ranks 161:15

rare 12:18

rate 23:23 205:17

rates 44:5 252:4,6

raw 45:19

re-enclosures 104:16

reach 147:5 189:10

reached 31:9,18 69:4 75:13 189:8 251:15

reaches 119:24

reaching 206:11

read 8:3,9,10 83:27 143:18,20 147:7 159:4 176:27 188:23,24 191:12 197:24 199:2,25 200:5,13 203:5 205:11, 12 207:25,26 236:17,18 240:23 241:22 258:21 260:17 261:1 265:12 269:2 272:10 274:23 284:7 296:12,16 300:25 302:18,22 312:6

reading 89:26 159:6,7 194:5 210:9 285:2 301:15

ready 23:24 69:25

real 67:24 126:20 152:25 188:22 241:8,9 259:26 289:23 293:22 294:2

realized 70:28

rear 122:20

reason 7:12 29:27 47:26 144:25 154:6 215:25,26 219:15 264:20 273:28 274:5 278:18 282:4,19 283:12,16,26 286:7 292:22 304:20

reasonable 54:2 242:19

reasons 77:19,25 78:8 95:18 166:13 215:9 217:15 219:16 239:24 282:11

rebuild 139:8

rebuttal 110:6

recall 5:19 11:18 17:17 19:15 42:5 69:16,27,28 71:28 72:5 73:1 78:20, 25 80:2 82:11,28 84:3 92:14 93:23 98:13 129:14 146:4 151:2,3 154:16 156:11,12 163:26 167:6 168:2,3 177:26 178:1,26 183:25 186:2,4 187:20 190:17 192:3 193:16 201:25 206:28 210:27 211:9,18 212:10 215:23 223:14, 15 225:17 233:5,23 243:16 253:7 262:26 263:1,2,6 268:19 271:21 275:13 291:14, 16 295:9,11 299:19 306:8 311:9,15 317:7

recalling 183:26

receive 9:3 54:7 220:23 221:8

received 36:14 48:6 61:27 74:27,28 105:25 140:17 159:1 165:3 169:24 170:1,7,25 201:23 202:2,3,7 265:19,24 266:6 285:17 305:1 311:9 receives 90:12

receiving 223:14 233:5

recent 150:12 205:5

recently 41:21

recertification 25:8

recess 48:12 80:15,17 110:14 171:17 222:23 257:27,28 299:5 320:16 321:3

recite 304:10

recognize 50:11 118:18

recognized 293:4

recognizes 315:21

recommended 242:20 277:5

reconstruct 238:17

reconstruction 136:7

record 5:4,8,9 6:27 48:13 54:3 79:23 80:16, 18 110:15 124:14 143:20 176:4,19 187:2 212:15 222:25 257:28 258:1 274:23 284:7 290:8 299:6 304:13,17 312:5 320:13,14,15

recording 6:24

recordings 7:15

records 83:10 109:16,

recreation 162:28 163:21,24 164:8,14

recreational 194:18,28

rectangle 64:19,21

red 57:8 85:19 168:15 182:17,22 212:8,16 213:8,11 234:7

redeeming 187:13

redirect 320:25

reduce 85:13.16

redundancy 14:5,7,18, 19,28 15:8 90:25,28

redundant 15:5

redwood 39:1 43:18,20 44:13 45:25,26,28 46:7, 10,13,17 47:1 61:10 145:4,8,15,19 152:11, 28 155:27 157:16 158:2,14 187:17 246:6, 10

redwoods 155:23 156:17 187:18

reevaluate 69:28

refer 55:7 117:5 156:24 209:6 224:28 226:12 233:20 266:12 273:4 279:6,28 281:24 283:10 291:2 292:7 294:26 300:16 305:6,8 314:16

reference 91:25 127:1 151:8 158:17,22 160:4 168:11 177:40:20-180:28 188:12 192:1.4. 12,19 199:28 200:1 209:3,4,6,23,25 210:3 215:23 216:15 221:21 223:1 227:10 228:16, 18,19,21,22,24,26,28 229:2,4 234:10,12,14, 16,18,19,20,21 237:11 243:1 245:19,22 246:1, 7 247:22 248:13 250:19 254:20 259:6 262:25 263:4,6,7,10 269:12 274:17 275:8 285:22 295:1 311:27

referenced 47:22,28 72:7 92:24 120:14 143:3 183:16 225:22 231:25 234:23 236:20, 24 249:5 256:8,13 266:26 269:11 277:18, 19 279:18,27 299:16 301:5 303:16 306:17

references 52:10 104:16,24 160:6 167:21 181:11 221:27 223:17 235:1 236:28 263:2 305:11 314:24

referencing 185:3,4,12 210:5

referred 41:20 58:7 67:24 78:1 79:7 110:24

126:28 129:6 154:17 155:18 158:16 159:1, 18,25 168:17 177:25 296:26 304:1

referring 13:2 41:8
52:11 54:19 61:22 82:4
84:6,16 85:4 87:14,20,
27 91:27 92:20 112:16
149:24 153:24 154:22
159:27,28 167:1,4
182:26 184:20 185:15,
22,23 187:9 198:10
199:4,7 205:24 217:25,
26 244:18 249:16
254:26 255:5,19
258:24,25 276:17
278:5,16,28 280:1
292:8 297:25,26

refers 52:7 84:8,22 85:2 158:13 218:4 233:23 242:16

reflect 12:22 16:14 17:15 37:4,27 72:17 82:21 83:4,11 104:3 105:2,10,13,17 111:13 118:27 123:9 170:12 185:24 212:23 305:13 307:12

reflected 32:11 38:8,16 39:23 53:10 64:10 72:8,9_82:8 95:28 111:17 127:25,26 128:15 146:10 147:28 148:2 165:24 212:18 226:17 228:7.13

reflects 35:17 120:19 134:13 154:27 160:28 200:17 227:3 233:15 234:1

refocus 139:7

refresh 56:15 299:25

refund 221:19

regard 63:17

region 227:25

register 179:9

registration 35:3

regular 19:13 94:24 113:7 166:2 318:6 regularly 23:10 162:19 247:2,4

regulate 296:17 298:16

regulated 295:6

regulates 298:10

regulating 296:25

regulation 295:24 296:14 298:18,28

regulations 314:25

rekindling 72:5

relate 180:24

related 8:14 11:4 22:9 55:16 56:18 71:1 82:25 93:17 186:3 209:27 211:21 260:13 271:1,18 273:17

relates 82:16 98:20 117:9 150:19,27 151:17 167:26 182:4 190:5 221:17 236:1 243:14 246:10 309:20

relating 24:6,7 91:17 163:27 180:15 188:13 205:8 206:17 229:22 237:11 238:4 262:26

relation 168:20 202:10 239:4

relationships 209:2 relationships 215:15

relevance 301:15

relevant 8:6 240:19

relied 268:12 269:4

relief 295:5,24

reloaded 148:13

reloading 27:15

relying 73:17

remain 58:25 298:18

remainder 259:27 319:4

Remco 15:25 16:2,10, 22,28 17:1 38:24,28 46:23 55:27 59:19 60:10 63:9,17 64:7

67:9,24 68:18,24 69:8 70:15,16 72:13,26,28 76:1,2,13 77:10 82:25 92:6 97:22 107:22 159:11,20,22 163:9 179:11 189:28 245:16, 19,20,22 246:3,16,20

remediation 16:18 63:13 68:5

remember 17:23 178:16 202:13 241:26

remind 7:15 10:16

reminds 40:4

removed 49:1

removing 237:4

render 133:1,9

rent 141:2,13

rental 225:10,14,17 233:25

rentals 221:21 233:23

rents 221:25 226:16

reopens 146:16

repair 64:21 124:4,7 138:14,22 288:5 289:5

repaired 138:18,25

repairs 23:28 24:3 127:14 129:21 289:3

repeat 190:26 220:25 224:12 228:9 232:9 257:1 274:22 284:6 314:2

repeated 284:5

rephrase 132:14,17,18 138:13 148:8 234:28 269:19 270:21 280:19 315:18

replaced 308:20

replied 165:3

reply 167:9 199:16 201:28

replying 205:2

report 34:17 50:19 51:12 52:14 53:4,10,15 54:7 72:9 147:11,13

152:11,25 153:2,7 169:27 223:26,27 312:3

reported 226:15

REPORTER 53:24 306:1

reporting 305:19

reports 152:27

represent 35:15 110:18 118:12 127:13 182:11 212:8 250:8 306:28 307:3

representation 201:1 212:7

representations 145:28

representatives 100:17

represented 148:28 259:17 275:27

represents 37:15 224:10 226:23 257:20

request 7:16 19:12 23:25 53:28 54:6 109:28 131:28 132:6,9, 21 133:3,6 140:12 144:18 156:24 158:13 254:20 263:16 264:4, 13,17 265:5 266:14 269:6 280:14 281:18 291:3,8 292:2,17 294:27 299:10 302:18, 26 303:5,22,24 304:10, 12,15,21,27 318:27

requested 107:19 109:21 132:22 195:8

requesting 145:5

requests 11:6 20:14 23:17 281:15 304:17 318:21

require 29:14,23 38:20 44:9 45:2 46:14 47:12, 14 53:18 58:3 94:10 95:21 99:22 269:26 317:10 319:23 320:2

required 25:6 57:18,23 60:15,20,22 141:20 215:11 231:6 270:3,9

272:27 280:11 281:5 283:5

requirement 148:22 281:1,2,10 317:15 319:8

requirements 231:6 268:9,15 271:14 281:3 287:2,7,9,10 317:5

requires 280:22 281:10

requiring 32:8 271:1, 18

reread 132:15

reroute 288:1

research 11:6

reserved 123:12

reserves 296:17

reservoir 234:6

residence 308:12

residences 20:14,15 143:8 307:19 318:12

residents 19:1,5 143:13 283:1 312:20

resolution 33:8,18 34:19,24 35:2,4,18,20,

resolve 214:10

resolved 244:8

Resort 155:23,27 156:17

resort-style 251:16

resources 240:16,18, 21 277:22,25

respect 11:3,12 17:1 27:5 32:26 54:6 55:22 56:3 65:10 71:16 72:2 75:4 131:17 195:23 240:1 255:23 272:21 297:9,13

respectful 237:26

respective 177:15

respects 177:17

respond 15:6,14 165:8 222:20 269:5

respondent's 118:9 134:9 168:9 169:25 170:2,8,27 181:27 211:28 265:20,25 266:7 305:3

responding 205:8

responds 254:5

response 109:18 164:12 196:26 197:7 201:24 202:2,4,8 208:19,21 218:18 244:20,21 277:21 303:17,19 304:2

responses 262:22 303:13,21,23 304:9,10, 17,27

responsibilities 9:12

responsible 231:2 267:11,13

rest 161:18 189:1 227:13

restate 113:14 235:14 257:1

restating 252:9

restoration 11:19 144:8

restriction 310:15

restrictions 209:27

restroom 210:22

rests 110:5

result 14:9 60:23 70:7 89:2 100:5 215:17 217:28 235:5 245:27 252:13 272:22 289:3 311:17

results 35:17

resume 320:17

resurgence 21:17

retain 259:20 271:12 286:20 287:21

retained 270:22

retaining 287:12,15

retired 158:5

retraining 25:7

retrospect 70:14

return 20:6 48:10 80:15 110:13 113:28 114:28 117:19 119:13,15 121:12 209:13 220:7, 16,23,27 221:7,8,24 230:15

returning 120:5 308:12

returns 114:3 119:15 121:9,15 122:13,15 123:4 318:3,5

reverse 90:2 119:15 122:16

review 216:14 223:6 266:27 267:4,17 273:11 279:4 280:2,17 290:5 300:15 314:7

reviewed 49:11 153:4 155:14 256:24 257:6,11 262:17,28 263:3,9 266:11,26 267:5 268:8, 9,22 271:17,21 274:12 275:2 277:13 291:18 308:17

reviewing 103:10,11 291:14,16 295:9,11 299:19

revisit 178:28

revisited 248:2

Reynolds 53:26

Rico 216:22

rid 86:3,4

ride 71:28 119:20 121:18 310:14

riders 141:15

ridiculously 188:26

right-hand 94:5 98:2 153:10 213:9

right-of-way 183:25 246:11 293:20

rights 21:28 22:2 39:27 40:3,6,20,21 41:6,8,11, 24 42:3,12,17 77:27 79:5,6,9 80:7 128:12,22 133:2,11 rises 96:22

risk 284:15

risks 12:2

River 46:1 111:21

RLWY 156:27

road 19:3 76:20 86:28 98:16,17 142:3 156:9 214:4 224:27 225:4,6 227:27 229:17 230:28 241:20

roads 19:2,7 215:16 237:16

roadway 57:21 91:26, 28 193:15

robert 63:18 157:9 159:14 166:5,8 179:7 190:15 191:10,15 198:9,28 199:3,18 200:18,26 203:4 207:28 219:24 229:8 233:2 238:26 252:27 258:28 259:6.8

rock 52:23,26 126:8,10, 12,19 138:5,6,18 305:27,28 306:13,22

role 9:7,8,21 10:3 11:3 162:7,17 179:24 217:13

roles 9:12

roof 125:15

room 29:14 59:25,26 66:2 74:3 253:3

round 14:22 19:2 65:15,19 122:9,11 142:8,10 308:4,7,11

route 46:25 52:7 54:24 57:6,7 64:14 70:21 98:1,19 144:28 187:17 198:17 282:13 308:14

routine 296:20

row 31:15

royalty 227:2,3

RR 224:27,28 227:26

RRIF 139:24

rule 132:9

ruled 132:6

rules 40:15,16,17,18 80:14 132:21 141:5,10 216:22 299:4

run 111:23 122:24 129:13,18 133:19 203:23 229:13 230:24

rundown 187:16

running 14:10 64:20 66:7 73:28 74:12 98:8 226:20 238:9 240:4 277:7 284:15 312:24

runs 46:24 66:19 100:13 122:18 123:22 128:28

RV 155:23,27 156:17 162:27 163:17 164:25 165:4 209:4 210:16 225:10,14,17 227:23 229:13,15 230:24 251:11 252:4 275:3 276:28 277:3 290:9,12,

RVERS 210:28

RVS 233:26

Ryan 261:14

S

S-P-A-U-R 7:10

sad 159:15

safe 9:15,16 130:4 231:2

safety 14:8 74:7,8 85:25,26 91:17,21 131:10,17 191:24 284:19 298:10,17

Safeway 20:5

Sage 47:5

sale 67:28 177:19 178:2 216:28 217:27 219:10 242:5

sales 251:11

San 65:7 86:22

sandwich 141:14

sandwiched 283:3,25

save 304:26

savings 226:24

SBMC 239:12

scale 64:28

scanned 263:24,25

schedule 118:28 120:8 121:27,28 123:10,15,18 152:20 298:28 313:3

scheduled 241:16 295:5

schedules 170:9,13 171:6 298:16

scheduling 295:6

Schlosser 63:18,19 67:19

school 87:6 197:24

scope 80:5

scratch 227:8,11

screams 166:6 167:2

sealed 109:18

search 5:25 80:24 82:17,21 83:5 311:21, 22

searching 55:22

seasonal 19:2

seats 25:23

second-to-last 253:28

second-to-the-last 250:25

secondary 14:28 15:5 135:22 136:6,16,20 214:4

secretary 144:19,23 145:5,16

section 51:5 78:2,3 191:20 209:15 250:15 266:18 268:19 271:22 280:11 291:12 292:19 293:7 295:28 296:28 298:21 300:20 301:4

sections 285:2

secure 31:15 92:18 193:20

secured 140:7

securing 139:20

sediment 136:19

seek 8:13 66:24 179:14 295:5

seeks 21:11,15 273:16 279:13 295:24

sees 193:22

segments 117:20

selected 69:1

selecting 67:3

sell 205:15 206:15 219:5 229:7 241:19 242:19 257:15 259:3,20

selling 75:14 160:18 177:8 197:1,5 241:18 252:3

sells 113:3

Semi 28:14

semi-permanently 233:28

send 68:9 88:26 104:14 196:17 198:12 208:15 255:4

sending 198:15

sends 89:4 208:18

sense 23:9 103:10 179:16 188:5 190:2 203:25 239:11 255:27 256:6

senses 90:14

sentence 85:1 87:12, 18 91:25 92:13 159:9 160:6 162:23 166:8 167:11 178:19 188:2 196:17 199:14 201:26 202:15 203:10 205:3 226:28 230:1,25 253:28 255:17 258:27 309:24 314:19

separate 64:18 118:1 125:3,25 154:8 259:2 307:13 308:17

separately 134:7

separation 55:1,2 58:2 59:11 78:12 93:27 94:6 95:19 96:15,17,23 97:4, 11 161:24

separations 57:25 148:27

September 68:25 119:1,8 171:10 261:17 267:28 268:4,10,17 269:28 271:2 272:19 275:21 276:7,21,26 278:6

septic 206:14,27 207:4, 8,11 209:16

serial 12:6 203:19

series 34:25 35:26 36:18 101:1

serve 9:23 47:24 46:13 72:23 102:7 109:5,6,8 164:4 247:17 259:14 277:11

served 9:24 10:7,22 146:22 264:20.21

serves 81:20 158:5 286:16

service 17:27 18:14,17 19:4 20:15,26 21:2 32=7 38:14 57:20 60:5 71:24 116:10,15 125:3 126:22 143:5 146:21 210:28 211:1 281:18,19 293:19 295:5,25 296:5 297:3,7 310:12 311:28 318:21,

serviced 14:12

services 11:24 17:21
18:4 20:24 31:7 44:2
45:2 46:13 47:13 49:21,
22,26 50:12,21 52:18
71:2,5,7,11,17 72:3
106:5,11,17,23 107:1,6,
9,13,19,26 108:3,8,13,
16,22,25 116:12 117:11
164:6 180:19,24 181:3
192:24 194:10 282:15
283:6,7 284:21 296:27
297:4,11,16,17 298:2,
10,17,23,25,27 300:1,

10,12 313:13

serving 10:24

session 312:6

sessions 25:5

set 12:11 43:2 77:28 89:3,6 125:4 127:16 152:21 213:25 290:22 303:18,20,22 307:16

setback 287:2,6,7,9,10

sets 137:15

setting 97:14

seven-and-a-half 122:13,25 318:2,5 319:3,6,14,15

sewer 211:1

shade 226:3

shades 227:9

shadow 125:13

shadowing 136:10

shape 58:5,16,17 59:12

shareholders 157:21

sharp 94:20

Sharpee 41:26

sheer 167:17

Shell 76:15 77:10 78:22,25 79:19 80:6,27 83:1 107:22 129:7,8 179:15 181:11,14,24 182:20,26 185:3

shepherded 19:9

Sherwood 142:2

shifted 139:6

shining 136:9

ship 23:14 31:10,11,12, 18 37:16 43:14,27 44:1, 25 70:8 109:9

shipped 23:1 27:25 30:24 37:23

shippers 28:27

shipping 26:7 28:27 30:12 38:11 39:14,16 47:10 50:28 125:6

146:3

ships 146:24

shop 64:23 72:22 124:27

shopping 20:9

shops 228:2

short 11:13 24:15 27:11 30:25,26 31:2 48:23,25 49:7,8,12,16 50:2,4,7,13,20 74:12 88:28 90:28 94:23 96:19 145:27 146:15, 19,23,25 147:4,5 254:3

short-circuiting 88:14

short-wheel 90:22

Shorter 31:3

shovels 103:4

show 33:6,7 41:23 42:10 48:1 57:3 70:16 144:27 171:13 186:7 187:6 193:23 213:19

showed 46:19 275:3 296:19

shower 210:23

showing 255:22

shows 8:16 73:23 99:3

shy 59:19 70:3

side 11:22 14:14,27 15:3,4,11,13,19 16:5 18:5,27 20:13,18 22:25 30:3 31:28 38:27 46:5 51:6 58:13 72:19 88:7 89:14,18 90:17 93:5 94:5,6,20 98:2 99:6,7, 19 122:19 125:26 135:2,19 142:3,4,9 153:10,11 155:3,6,7 160:20 163:1 199:19, 24,26 200:19,22,27 202:19 209:22 213:9 225:9 281:21 306:2 309:10 317:28 318:1

side-by-side 59:5

sided 35:7

siding 22:22 38:20 39:5 46:27 47:4 **sidings** 22:18,26 23:6 24:5 26:21 28:5 58:14

Sierra 13:5 93:11 151:22 158:4 260:2 300:6

sight 17:27 94:27 274:12

sightseeing 113:9,16 116:2,6,8,16,24 117:14 180:23 297:12,16,19,22 298:17 310:28

sign 86:25

signage 91:26 193:15 194:2

signal 88:26 90:7,8,12,

signature 104:12

signed 16:24 63:10 198:9

significant 45:27 98:19 177:7 178:14 180:15 183:23 211:27 250:1 320:3,7,8

significantly 320:3

similar 24:17 44:11,26 45:19 65:17 98:6 111:10 137:18 153:20 164:18 225:14 241:4 310:24

simple 9:14 12:15 88:14 164:22

simply 25:20 30:22 70:22 74:3 78:15 107:23 130:26 143:14 166:18 201:18 220:10 240:2 248:14 269:4 312:21

single 45:4

single-line 103:7

sir 5:6 157:2 158:27 176:23 198:11 242:25 253:26 254:22 258:22 260:19 266:15,22 268:21 275:19 276:16 282:9 283:9 288:7 292:4 295:8 300:8,19 309:8 318:4,15 sister 53:5

sit 123:17 300:27

site 23:13 60:25,27 63:21 70:21 91:16 92:18 148:23.25 159:11,21,22,23,26 160:4,10,23 161:1,21, 22,23 162:10,15 163:16 166:10 167:12 177:14 178:4 187:24,25 188:13 189:20 194:3 196:21 199:15 200:8 201:27 202:21,22,23 203:17 204:2,7,11,15,18 207:15 208:1.10 209:18,20 210:12 215:14 217:3,14,16 224:6,10 235:1 240:9 248:11,13 256:22 285:14,16,20 286:1

sites 75:17,10.77.7 159:16,17 162:27 163:8,13,17 179:25 207:14,19 210:27 231:5 239:14 285:14

siting 162:4

sits 23:4 96:26 103:1

sitting 23:18,22 124:17 315:26

situated 162:24

situation 6:23 32:23 44:4 147:10 238:13

situations 40:23

size 16:11 27:21 46:9, 11 58:5,6,9 59:11,14, 15,24 60:3,11,24 62:27 65:15 74:17 78:16,17, 19 95:20 97:6 161:1 190:22 282:24

sizes 90:23

sizze 65:18

sketch 224:24,25 225:8,13 232:2,6

skinny 98:13

skip 187:28 230:1

skipped 255:2

skunk 10:11 111:2 112:13,14,20 133:17 159:9 180:16 187:14 188:4,6 198:17 259:3 300:12,13

sky 31:25

Slash 306:1

slate 120:18

slated 289:18

slides 137:23

slope 99:16 211:26

sloughage 137:18

slowest 25:11

small 45:25 59:17 78:17 127:4 135:23 149:21 153:20 163:2 191:2 234:8 242:1

smaller 59:17

snakes 66:21

SNR 260:1,2,11

social 251:12

soil 54:28 102:24,26,27 103:1

solar 227:8

sold 159:12 160:10 171:12 195:13 309:24

solely 71:1 130:22

soliciting 281:17

solid 37:17,22 38:1,4, 14,19,22,25 39:2 46:20, 23

solidified 276:11 278:25

solidify 103:15

solution 50:28 88:12 146:3

solve 32:2,4 214:10

solved 70:4

someone's 200:1

something's 88:27

son 177:4 190:17 201:19

sort 11:8 13:15 14:1 21:16 25:25 46:22 58:8 60:19 63:1 64:4 66:11 72:5 73:19 76:21 91:12 96:14 103:17 137:18 213:11 282:23 319:25

sought 281:6

sound 16:11

sounds 6:17 219:24 260:10 306:15

source 220:3

sources 45:28

south 57:6 66:1 69:12 78:2,22 128:21 129:19, 25,27 130:7 131:22 153:22 187:3.4

southeast 181:24

southern 129:1,4 147:1

space 23:13 25:4,16 27:27 28:1,10,18,23 29:7,23 30:1 58:10,11, 13,15 66:4 74:3 107:23 228:1 240:3,11

spaces 208:3 209:4 210:16 225:18 229:13 240:27

spanned 52:8

spans 57:9 128:23

Spaur 7:8,10,11,13,17, 20,22

speak 162:19 200:3 202:11 244:18 258:27 278:12 290:6

speaking 12:26 21:20 79:16 96:12 161:23 168:3 190:17

speaks 13:14

spearheaded 12:4

special 121:1 293:18 303:14,18,24,25,26,27, 28

specialized 251:16

specific 12:19 51:27 59:2 69:28 71:26 90:14

148:22 202:25 273:28 274:5,9,11 277:28 303:23

specifically 12:23 17:1 41:7 49:16,26,27 50:8 51:20 52:26 69:8 71:20 122:7 148:18 159:17 168:6 229:21 256:14 263:7 278:15,21 300:14 303:12 304:21 305:8

specificity 279:17

speculate 130:26 159:28 248:15 279:25

speed 88:22 89:16 94:25 96:13 119:22,28 120:1

speeds 88:17 119:28

spell 151:19 211:14

spend 180:18 213:3 214:17,20 215:4 217:3, 9 245:3,7 320:3

spending 158:19

spent 87:24 102:12 161:14 180:20 195:26 239:3,5 240:16 270:18 277:24

spirit 11:28 12:10 13:15 60:19 165:11 187:23 237:14,20

split 15:2 259:1,5

splits 214:5

splitting 69:6

spoke 17:18 31:16 37:18 60:18 62:21 71:12 136:13 196:4 205:14 206:8 211:19 225:19 257:16

spools 45:11

spot 59:2 92:15 98:19 148:28 150:3 193:17

spring 19:6 138:9,19

spur 22:20,22,26 39:6 46:27

spurs 22:18 23:6 24:5 26:21 28:5 38:21 58:14

squirrel 253:2 257:16

St 299:14

stacking 286:26

staff 25:12 31:22 72:9 75:8 226:20 276:3 307:17 312:2

stage 29:3,6

staggered 58:23 103:17

stalling 216:19

stand 5:5 176:18

stand-alone 90:10

standard 52:12,13 73:5,13 317:20 319:6

standards 49:22 51:23 141:12 317:9,10,26 319:3

standing 75:9 125:12,

standpoint 49:1 58:24 60:23 62:23,24 72:24 88:9 95:3 96:27 97:18 102:25 120:16 139:27 141:6 164:2 192:28 240:13,15 259:11 288:1 289:11

stands 19:23 90:5 127:2 139:25 299:24

stapled 34:25 291:5

stapled-together 33:17,19

start 50:4 64:11,12 75:22 102:21 103:4 156:22 203:12 238:23 245:24 251:20 261:3 262:18 279:21

started 13:10 22:8 81:1 89:21 100:3 103:25 109:14 139:22 192:7 208:23 215:19 263:23 310:21

starting 67:20 206:12 208:8

starts 198:26 217:22 232:28 249:19 307:28 309:3 314:21

state 46:25 48:21,23,26 49:7,26 50:5 54:3,24 57:6,7 64:14 70:21 73:12 98:1,19 111:4 112:27 115:18 128:13 141:21 153:22 187:2 190:21 195:12 198:14 241:9 244:10 253:13 282:13 293:4 298:5,18 305:12 314:25,27 315:6,14,15,22,25 316:2 317:10

state's 50:8

stated 214:19 215:9 218:21 220:26 253:19 255:21 268:21 277:21 281:4,13 301:28 313:21,25

statement 68:7,9 147:7,8,9 162:3 163:5, 26 165:7 190:24 200:20 240:18 241:24 260:4 280:10,22 296:7,8 298:13 315:4 319:16

statements 36:19,21 165:2,21 179:19 190:21 287:23

states 34:20 39:9 118:24 121:23 144:20 146:19 152:14 155:22 156:27 157:6 159:9 163:20 167:2 177:4 178:20 179:6,8 182:10 191:9,16 199:3 200:17 202:14 207:27 209:15 217:20 219:24 227:7,18 233:14 237:9 239:3 241:16 244:14 248:21 252:27 258:23 259:24 260:10 261:20 266:13 269:23 271:23 273:15 292:10 296:26 298:15 309:24 314:21,25

stating 147:12,13

station 20:3 87:13 92:16 111:26,27 112:1, 24 114:13,15,17,20,23, 25,28 115:3,4,11,13,15 117:18 121:16 122:4, 16,25 123:4,26 124:18, 20,25 125:25,27 126:2, 18 142:8 162:5,11 166:10,24 167:12 179:8,20 180:4 187:22 190:4 191:21 192:13 193:17,27 196:20 211:16 224:7 225:25,27 228:2 230:7 233:16 308:14 309:5 318:1

stationed 15:13

stations 29:4 71:14 141:23 195:3 209:3 293:21 307:20 309:5,9, 11,13,20

status 5:15,23 7:28

statute 266:16,17,21 269:14,15,22,23 271:23 280:18,27 291:11,14 292:18,22 293:12,28

statutes 263:20 264:6, 7,16,18,19 267:5 280:13

stay 58:25 89:7 119:11 211:11

STB 314:21

steel 30:4 88:15,24 90:19 137:14

steep 94:2 96:4,7 178:7 188:26 214:6

step 22:6 61:24 254:14 268:1,4 286:3

step-by-step 26:3

stepped 161:8

steps 68:14 **Steve** 110:18

stipulated 217:27

stipulation 243:14

stockpile 29:7,15

stockpiled 54:28 148:13

stop 19:25 102:10 113:28 117:19 119:25 269:27 307:22 311:12, 16 318:21

stopped 176:11

stopping 117:18,23

stops 120:2 134:3 135:1 307:21,23 309:6 319:26

storage 20:25 47:2,3 58:13 64:22 72:22 87:13 92:18 126:8,10, 16,19 191:21 192:13,19 193:20 263:4

store 22:28 23:5,13 29:7 210:25 225:25 227:24

storing 23:7

storms 137:10

straight 93:1 96:23

stream 259:25 286:5

street 42:27 46:24 76:27 86:16,19,20 87:3 115:4 124:25 125:17, 18,24 133:8,10 142:1 149:25 164:19 166:23 179:11 210:2 227:20 243:14,28

Street all 86:9

streets 70:19 92:7

strikes 209:20 278:8

string 58:19,24

stronger 247:19

struck 284:16

structure 137:14

structures 293:19,21

stuck 56:18

studied 213:1

study 103:10

stuff 264:28

style 25:25 61:18 62:22

subject 55:7,10 56:9, 28 57:8,11 60:25 62:4, 19 63:24,26 64:13 66:11,17 67:3 70:18,23 75:10 76:22,25,27 77:18 79:9,10 80:27 84:2,11 86:9,11 87:10 91:16 93:21 97:22 98:6 100:4,25 101:13 102:4, 19 104:4 105:4,11,19 107:15,16 110:6 141:5 143:5 146:13 152:26 154:21 158:11,23 164:18 168:5 177:27 178:10 191:11 202:10 205:9 206:18 231:14 233:4 245:21 271:14 272:22 296:14 298:18, 27 302:1

submit 36:5 54:5 304:19.23

submitted 33:2 36:8, 22 37:5,11 53:28 109:28

submitting 304:22

subpoena 109:19

subscribe 189:24

subsection 271:22

subsequent 68:25 164:15 167:8 202:9 248:1

subsequently 113:28 149:6

subsidiaries 82:6

substance 82:7 93:14 269:15

substantiates 54:1

substantive 44:17

successfully 13:27

sue 245:2

suffice 103:20 237:8 277:24

sufficient 27:1 59:9,11 110:3 190:24

suggest 205:21 315:25

suggested 179:15 216:24 219:2

suggesting 91:3

suggestion 196:22 224:17 254:13 290:25, 27

suggestions 162:7

suggests 96:2

suit 238:21

suitable 77:7,15,18,23 78:9 95:16,17 286:25, 27

summarized 242:10

summary 33:17 34:14, 22,28 188:3

summer 20:14,15,23 143:7.8

summing 255:18

summit 18:27

sunlight 136:9,11

supervisor 37:15

supplement 262:5

supplemental 262:7 263:15 264:11,13 266:12,14 280:14 302:26 303:6

supplied 49:3

supplies 307:18

support 22:25 24:10 31:14 32:26 34:19 36:19,21,22 37:1,2,4,5, 7,11,14,20 44:24 47:22 144:26

-support/subsidize 311:11

supported 10:5

supporting 293:19

supportive 53:22

suppose 99:22 211:5 217:22

supposed 136:21

Supreme 301:5

surface 70:19 92:7 131:9,12,28 132:5,8,20 133:4,5 293:4 295:26

surmise 260:17

surrounding 267:26 315:15

suspect 195:15 206:12

suss 11:8 101:24

sustain 269:18

swap 216:20

swapping 216:25

sweeping 70:24

swerve 284:13

switch 22:20 73:24

sycamore 84:20,21 158:18,20

system 29:20 49:18 129:5 146:27 207:11 209:19

Т

TA 71:25

Tabitha 34:15 72:10

table 52:15

tag 6:14 33:13

tail 141:14,16

takes 14:26 102:18 119:27 121:7 123:6 284:20

taking 12:1 30:8 53:17 151:25 177:14 180:2 191:3 196:11 200:1,14 202:28 208:21 231:19, 26 237:21 246:24 254:10 260:15,26 262:1 266:28 267:13,14 268:2,16,25 270:9 272:21 278:19 286:9 301:6 316:4,13

talk 11:10 64:6 81:1 101:19 201:15 245:18 247:22

talked 18:12,13 24:4 67:7 76:13 80:26,27 168:6,7 192:4 194:9 231:13 256:25 278:24

talking 5:14 14:15,19, 20 28:12 41:6 56:18 61:5 92:2,6 99:5,16 100:3 103:11 167:6 181:19 184:23 187:21 198:20 200:13 204:17 212:21 253:2 275:5 287:6,7 300:17

talks 51:21,26 87:18 164:16 167:11 221:15, 24 252:3

tall 138:2

tandem 103:23

tangent 92:28 191:20

tangential 237:17

tank 305:27 306:5,10

tanker 28:16

taped 35:26

tariff 32:9,11,14 44:3,6 106:7,19 107:27 143:6

tariffs 20:28 32:8

tax 216:20 217:28 221:20

taxes 209:7

team 12:9 213:1

teams 166:2

tech 103:13

technical 102:25

technically 128:6

technology 87:25 90:3,5,17 196:4,6

temporary 135:21 199:22

tend 215:17

tents 211:5,7

term 10:15 70:5 148:19 149:3 158:25 192:21,23 209:9,10 210:6 225:10 235:14 249:4 290:23 291:26,28 293:8

terminate 42:4 132:10, 23

terminated 40:28 41:4, 5,7 42:12 68:12

termination 42:18

terms 9:14 88:14 93:1 289:13 302:6 304:13 307:16

terrace 136:13

terrible 163:3

test 88:10 244:14,16, 23,26 245:1,3,5,7

test/prototype 142:19

testified 5:16 51:3 74:5 75:16 84:1 91:10 121:6 127:23 136:23 137:9 138:24 146:9,12 158:12 164:20 170:12 195:25 237:15 238:20 247:16 272:9 275:14 277:2 284:28 285:6,17,27 298:3 302:13 305:10 307:16 308:3 317:23,27

testifying 270:18

testimony 5:13 48:2 54:1 56:21 57:16 67:1 83:17 84:6 101:26 136:14 151:8 156:12 178:14 194:25 238:3 239:28 246:5 255:10 276:25 281:13 285:9 289:21 301:27 305:14 319:28

text 226:12

Thanksgiving 131:7

therefrom 53:20

thereof 309:25

thereto 273:19

thereto, 279:15

thing 14:6 19:16 78:13 91:12 102:23 170:11 184:21 190:2 236:23 248:26 294:19 313:7

things 14:7 15:6,21 16:10 17:4 34:12 58:26 60:20 61:11 63:6 80:8 84:18 90:4 91:15 103:7, 16 113:11 141:7,21 150:8 158:15 167:10 189:28 214:22 221:14 222:21 238:15 261:6 265:6 270:19 284:28 300:15 304:11 317:8 319:28

thinking 208:12,16 246:2,9,17 254:10 thought 60:2,6 62:24 88:5 98:26 160:23 167:15 179:2 194:21,24 200:4,6 217:2,8 218:28 225:13 226:18 239:19, 21 242:19

thoughts 17:12 82:9 179:7

thousand 193:25 205:20

thread 205:2,6,8 237:21 257:20

three-and-a-half 119:12,21,25 133:28

ticket 307:17 310:24

ticketing 226:21

tickets 113:3 307:18 309:24 310:1,9

ties 126:8

tight 70:19 74:3

timber 43:21 46:4

time 14:2,13 15:22,24 17:22 18:2 23:24 26:2 29:26,28 30:5 32:24 37:19 39:23 48:9 52:14 58:12 60:8 62:12 64:8 69:1 85:13,20 87:23,25 89:8 94:23 103:8,14,16, 24 109:11 118:28 122:24,27 123:23 128:14 129:10,23,27 130:1,6 131:2,5 140:6 141:5 143:27 147:17 160:3,11,22 161:4,14 163:7,8,15 164:23 171:6,7,9 179:1,4,27 180:2 181:4 184:5,15 190:28 191:3 192:7,16 195:22 196:19 201:24 202:2,8,20 205:27 206:3,21 207:7,11,19 208:6,23 210:7 211:15, 18 213:3 214:18,20 216:27 217:2,3,8,9,24 218:8,14,24 220:6,14 221:2 222:2,6 224:14, 19 225:14 228:5,11,15 231:10,11 232:6,7,22 238:5 241:4,11 243:8, 11 244:1,19,22 245:6.

25 246:14,20,22,23 247:6,21,23 248:25 249:3 251:19 255:16 256:2,24 257:6,11,18 259:27 264:3 266:27 267:2,18 272:19 276:25 277:7 278:10 284:12,14 291:17 305:20 306:6,9 312:27 313:26 314:4

timeline 262:20

times 12:18 19:15 20:2, 10 41:20 46:8 72:6 91:1 95:6 118:20 164:4 177:22 190:22 272:9 284:9 302:4 312:27

timetable 47:5

timing 23:2

tip 98:18 234:5

title 9:21 10:25 151:21 152:10,11,24,27 153:2 154:7 157:12,28 158:18 159:3 169:27

titled 73:23 124:27 152:21 295:3 298:21 299:14

titles 10:21

Tobacco 53:26

today 8:7 18:3,9 21:5 24:23 25:20 49:15 50:22 51:3 54:1 60:18 67:1 71:13 74:8 84:1 91:23 102:16 110:24 118:13 121:23 123:17 124:1 129:17 136:23 146:4,7 149:13 150:8, 10 154:17,22 155:18 156:6 165:21 166:16 168:1 170:15 184:4,14 191:26 199:21 205:14 206:8 225:20 244:10 266:3 270:20 276:10 294:15,18 300:28 301:10 320:16

told 32:18 242:8,9 257:14

tomorrow 102:16

ton 191:18 193:28

tone 90:6

tonnage 90:20

tons 195:14

tool 247:11

tools 125:7 127:8,9 289:2

top 8:4 11:22 33:20 34:14 52:1 118:24 121:23 124:18 182:9 223:16 224:26 239:2 249:23 250:13 275:12 300:17 309:4

topic 311:27

topo 99:3 100:13

topographical 99:6

Torgny 81:18 151:1 157:25 191:10 222:11 233:3

torpedoed 68:13,16

tossed 205:16

TOT 221:19

total 226:22

Totally 197:2

touched 27:11

tough 187:18

tourism 313:13

tourist 18:15

tourists 180:22

tours 311:1

town 141:26,28 283:4

towns 312:15

Tp9 90:24

tracing 57:9

track 15:2 22:15 24:5 26:15,18,19 30:3 31:1 39:27 43:5 46:27 51:21, 22,28 52:10,12,13 58:14,15,18 59:22 62:26 66:10 73:25 77:26 79:6,27 88:17,21 89:16,19 92:18 93:1 95:21 100:6 111:20 119:12,22,28 120:1 122:19 125:1,2 126:7,

13,16 147:26,27 148:2, 3 163:2 184:22 189:16, 21 193:19 263:12,13 293:25 319:4

trackage 21:28 22:2 39:27 40:3,6,20,21 41:6,8,11,24 42:3,12,17 77:27 79:5,9 80:7 128:12,22 133:11

tracked 35:10

tracking 92:15 133:2

tracks 19:24 20:13 22:26 28:3 30:4 38:27 39:6 40:10,21,25 42:23 55:3 58:13,23 59:5 64:20 66:6,7,8 72:25, 27,28 73:4,10,13,23,28 75:12 76:6 77:5,6,8,9, 28 79:2,15 87:16 93:3,4 98:3,14 103:22 111:14, 16,23 124:24 125:3,19 127:17 140:25 148:4 163:1 179:17 193:17 199:19 200:19,22,27 293:20 319:2,11.13

tractor/trailer 28:13

traditional 25:25 27:16

traffic 31:21 94:25 96:12 139:3 179:13 195:18 214:27 220:3 289:6

trailer 27:16 125:5

trailers 211:6

train 10:11 19:23,24,25 20:5,8 22:19 27:18 28:3 29:20 60:2,6 71:28 89:5,11,13,24 93:28 94:4 111:2,27 112:1,13, 14,20,24,28 113:4,24, 27 114:12,15,19,23,24, 28 115:2,4,11,13,15,19, 21,24,28 116:5,7,9,19, 20,21,24,26,28 117:5,9, 13,14 119:10,11,16,24 120:2,4,6,10,21 121:7, 9.15,19 122:3,4,6,7,18, 20,24 123:3,10,26 124:2 126:18 129:11, 18,25,26 130:7,11,17, 19,22,27 131:2,5 135:9

138:15,20 139:13 141:18 148:24 149:6 156:16 170:9 180:16 187:25 188:4 193:1 196:8,11,20 211:16 214:25 224:6 225:27 226:5,7 234:17 237:3 259:1 289:15 299:28 300:1,2,4,7,10,12,13,21 301:1,11 302:14 318:1,

Train's 187:14

training 25:5,6,13 66:3 141:19,20 197:25

trainings 141:21

trains 86:17 116:12,23 117:2,17,19 119:7 120:12,23 121:1 124:7 129:13,15 130:1 141:6, 10 143:2,10,12 191:22 192:14 284:8,13 289:8, 17,22 312:13,15 318:7, 10,11,16,17,24,26

trans 21:18 22:8,25 23:1 24:4 27:6,26 29:25

transaction 16:28 163:9

transcontinental 146:27

transient 233:27

Transit 221:20 310:13

transload 31:7 40:1 45:2 46:27 47:14 57:20 62:25 66:5 73:26 87:17 92:2 95:10 107:18 108:26 146:13 194:8,9 262:25 276:12

transloading 27:9,15 30:7,11 39:18 44:9 46:14 51:5,8 59:9,23 60:22 70:11 93:5 148:10,15,17,19,23 149:3,9,12,19 150:3,4, 9,12 165:6,19 192:17, 21,23 195:1 214:14,26 215:2 228:16,18 234:10,12 238:5,14 252:14,18 283:7 284:20

transloads 319:28

transmit 90:7

transport 20:23 38:4 164:6

transportation 18:17
20:26 21:18 32:3 34:21
39:22 44:2,7,8 45:2
46:13 47:13 49:18,22
50:5,8,21 52:17 71:4,5,
7,12,23 72:3 106:5,11,
17,23 107:6,9,13,26
108:3,8,13,16,22 131:9,
12,28 132:5,8,20 133:4,
5 139:23 144:20,23
145:5,16 293:5 294:5,
11 295:27 296:5,27
297:3,5,7,27 298:6
300:22 301:2,3,6,8,12
318:11

transportation' 300:21

transported 27:14 51:24 52:16 148:11,14 149:5 298:4

transporting 31:27 70:9 298:6 310:4

transports 143:6 294:8

travel 28:3 89:28 95:11 122:6 142:8,9 211:6 215:17 251:12 310:26 318:24.25

traveled 320:19

traveling 89:11 233:26

travels 113:24 114:15 122:7 318:4

treasurer 11:1 158:5

treat 253:16

tree 84:20 121:24 122:5,25 123:8,10 143:4,11 158:18

trees 66:14,18 234:5 285:25 286:4 287:9,27 288:1

trenches 161:15

trespass 183:23 310:5

tresses 293:20

trial 7:12,13,15 110:22

245:9,11 278:28 305:15 314:7,17

trickles 12:8

tricky 236:27

trigger 87:19 191:23 192:14

triggered 88:13,14 139:6

triggering 156:8

trip 121:12 122:9,11 142:8,10 187:14 308:7, 9,11

trips 117:20 308:4,5 313:1

truck 23:1,3 27:16 28:16 30:3 31:1,21,27 58:11 70:26 95:8 125:5 148:20 149:16 150:1 166:10 213:27 289:20

trucking 167:12

trucks 28:1,10,12,13, 14,18,23 29:1,6,21 30:22,24 58:10,12 65:27,28 92:11 94:23 95:4,10 125:4 130:20 149:26 214:27 232:13

true 35:22 36:7 115:18 132:3 160:13 184:26 200:20 201:5 241:21 298:13,19

Trust 16:19 68:5

trustee 68:5,20

trustees 16:19

truth 53:19 296:11

Tuesday 123:13 263:21,27

tunnel 14:2,25 15:21 31:12 32:17,19,20,23 38:5 39:20 133:23,25, 26,27 134:4,24,25 135:27 136:24 137:8, 22,25 138:2,5 139:5,12 140:14,15 142:3,4,9 146:16 310:12

tunnel's 311:17

tunnels 293:21

turn 17:13 22:16,17 28:21 58:10 62:27 74:11 86:17 96:14 103:12 108:6 119:18 121:24 122:5,25 123:9, 10 143:4,11 153:11 155:9 156:24,26 258:6 290:8 296:12

turned 32:3 136:3

turning 74:4 124:3

turns 70:22 92:7

two-and-a-half 9:27

two-person 140:23

two-step 103:17

type 71:11 118:18 128:10 153:7 180:24 194:22 196:7 201:23 214:27 229:23 252:7,12 277:18 279:17 281:18, 19 283:6 305:18 318:27

types 51:13 117:2 255:15 302:2

typical 27:21 28:13 83:14

Name On C

U.S. 87:4

Ukiah 129:11,20,25,27

U

ultimate 16:21

un-gated 39:3

unable 260:28

uncertain 272:11

unicontain Lillin

uncertainty 219:26

uncommon 19:16 23:26

underneath 127:19

underside 127:21

understand 6:25 105:13 132:13 149:2 155:12 197:2 200:5,13 208:15,28 270:25 271:5

272:12,13,16 302:6

22,26 69:4 85:4 115:15, 17 119:6 123:9 131:8, 27 139:11 149:8 150:2 152:24 153:14,27 154:1,2 155:28 161:16, 20 163:21 167:25 182:4 206:17 218:23 219:7 223:20 224:1,9 226:4 260:24 269:8 273:20

understanding 8:19,

275:25 276:6,19,24 277:16 280:21 286:9 293:11,14,15 294:7,10 297:1,6,20 301:16

316:5,8,9,19 understands 302:6

understood 5:6

undertake 38:3 39:4

undoubtably 95:21

undoubtedly 74:18

ungated 86:23 87:1,8

unilaterally 199:27,28

Union 79:14 80:14 147:2

unique 90:13

United 34:20 144:20

unload 59:2

unloaded 59:1

unloading 29:28 30:2,

4 58:27

unmute 7:1,7

unprotected 86:23

87:1,8

unrealistic 69:21

unresolved 244:9

unusual 24:15

upcoming 121:28

update 207:27

updated 307:27

updates 307:14

upgraded 91:22

upgraueu 91.22

uphill 96:7 177:26,27, 28 178:9

upper 136:10

usable 99:20

useable 98:27 228:1

utilities 71:20 109:16, 20 291:12 293:7 294:28 296:4,22,24 298:3 318:22

utility 5:15,23 8:1,27 88:10 227:9 292:14,19, 20,21,23,26 297:19,22 298:24,26 301:28

Utility's 292:19 299:15

utilize 99:18 101:16,21 102:26 311:13,16

utilized 247:19 utilizing 13:23

V

vacant 199:21

vague 132:12 143:27 269:17 272:11 284:1

Vaguely 299:18

valley 30:13 86:21 92:14 193:16

valuation 240:28

valued 238:14

van 20:17

vans 20:19,21,25 127:11

varies 121:4

variety 10:27 55:25,26 77:24 81:10 166:13 215:3 264:18 282:24

vary 27:22

vehicle 19:7 89:10 95:5,6,7 149:28

vehicles 65:26,27 92:11 95:4 287:26

vehicular 70:25

venue 316:10

verbal 83:9,10,11,19 215:28

verify 262:8

versa 27:17 148:21 310:27

version 49:12 148:12

versus 45:12 53:25 110:21 227:28 229:22 239:13 240:27 285:9

vet 162:7 282:23

vetted 162:13

vice 10:1,3,5,15,18,22, 24 11:3 27:16 81:16,19, 20 148:21 157:14 158:1,6 216:9,10 310:27

view 217:22 251:10

viewed 232:25

violating 299:4

visibility 91:26 92:8 162:24 179:12,14,20,24 180:2 187:23 188:8 189:15 193:15 194:2,10 227:26 230:6,17

visible 76:21 180:8 181:16,18 188:4 220:2

visitor 65:26

visual 62:23

void 133:2

volume 149:16

W

waiting 89:2 110:11 250:5.6

walk 64:9 69:3 72:16 73:3 75:25 114:11,24 120:4,7 164:11 217:16 306:9

walk-through 211:19

walked 212:10

walks 242:6

wall 20:17 21:22 127:17 166:15

walnuts 253:3

wanted 43:14 68:20 69:21 110:10 159:14 167:16 178:16 214:23 215:6 229:13 230:24 249:25 285:5 299:25

wanting 101:24 166:5 206:14,27 241:19

Ward 261:13,14 262:12

warehouse 80:2

warning 89:9

wash 239:13

waste 37:17,22 38:1,4, 14,20,22,25,26 39:2 46:20,23 240:17,21 277:22,24

watching 91:13 253:2

water 211:1 212:12 298:7

waterway 288:2

waterways 226:11

ways 22:22 207:1 232:12,13

weak 199:10

weather 19:13 289:3 312:21

website 35:11,14 118:13,16 120:14 121:23 181:7

Wednesday 206:10

wee 177:19

weed 167:9

weeded 231:13

week 20:9 123:13 201:22 296:19 313:4, 17.18

weekend 206:9

weekends 171:12

weeks 103:26,27

weight 24:11 54:8 317:7,13

west 15:23 38:27 46:19, 22,27 56:9 64:17 66:8 72:19 81:2 85:3,6 89:22

91:18,19,21 93:2,20 96:10,13 98:1 99:7,19 115:25 125:18 134:24 137:13,14 142:1 152:14 153:11,21 161:27 168:5,22 177:19,20 178:5 196:12 198:16 286:17 318:20

west/southwest 64:12

westbound 94:27,28

western 9:8 10:11,26 17:8,22 21:27 38:15 40:10,12,18 41:9 52:7 92:22 94:15,18 106:6, 18 107:2 108:9 111:1, 14 112:18,19 113:4,10, 12,15,19 115:20,22,25 116:1 118:14,15 123:22 124:3,19,21 126:20,26 127:24,25 128:9 129:16 130:12,19 131:3 133:18 134:3 135:27 137:7 143:25 144:9,28 145:2, 9,13,20,24 148:3,8,9 149:23 154:27 181:1,4 184:17 292:11,27 293:25 295:4 296:13

wheel 89:25 90:27

wheels 20:20 88:15,23, 24 89:3,6,20,22,23 90:20 140:24

white 20:18 64:13 86:25

wide 22:15 24:5 40:25 58:14,15 59:22 62:26 95:20,21 99:19 100:6 149:27

wider 70:21 73:5 92:8

width 65:23

wild 255:4

wilderness 141:21

Wilits 86:8 126:24

Willits 11:5,12,14,16,20 13:21 15:4,11,13,19 16:18 17:16 18:2,22,27 20:4 21:26 25:16 26:5, 10,21,24 27:7 30:8,28 31:18 37:23 38:6,20,25, 28 39:2,17 40:1,9,14,17

42:19 43:23 44:9 45:3, 15.17.24 46:6.13.16 47:1 49:28 52:8,10 53:1 58:9 61:12 63:4 68:4,19 71:13 78:2 84:9,11,26 87:4 111:24 112:1 115:2,4,5,8,10,19,21 116:1,5,7,11,13,15,19, 23 117:3,17,18,19,21, 22 121:28 122:3,4,24 123:4,10,11,26 124:4 125:13,14 126:6,21 129:12,19,25,27 130:8 131:22,26 132:1,24 133:6,19 141:23 142:14 145:15,19 147:26 152:14 158:11,12,16, 23,25 159:15 162:5,11 166:6,12,22,24 167:21 177:4,20 179:17 181:14 187:14 189:17 190:1 191:11 196:20 221:14 261:25 284:10,11,21 306:12 309:17 310:15, 27 312:14,17,18 313:7 317:28 318:1,7 319:7

winds 97:3

Windsor 87:1

windy 92:8

Wine 299:28 300:1,2,4, 7,10,20 301:1,11

winter 137:10,11 138:9 139:28

wintertime 313:1

wise 60:24 78:17 136:18 276:20

wished 273:22

wishes 19:23 150:14

withstand 317:11,17

Wolf 121:23 122:5,25 123:8,10 143:4,11

wondering 170:14

word 60:1 215:23 263:7

words 42:26

work 13:22 36:3 66:4 69:6 75:11 102:9,21 103:6,14 116:12,21,28 117:5 139:4 146:20

156:23 178:26 189:28 196:6,8 197:6 201:10, 11 204:5 240:2 243:6 244:5,6,21 245:17,24 282:14 288:8,26 289:5 318:11

work-train 129:13

workable 95:25

worked 22:12,14 71:19,25 162:10

working 17:26 63:13 69:19 71:15 84:23 158:19 161:14 233:26 310:22

works 141:3 242:16,21, 23,24,26 243:6 244:4 310:17

worried 237:25

Worstell 65:7 276:11

worth 190:15

worthiness 139:27

Wow 31:11 258:23

wrap 320:16

write 12:19 168:28 237:9 254:5

writing 61:15 100:12 167:21

written 12:21 17:2 60:14 155:17,21 179:27 191:15 196:25 199:8,10 228:11,18,21,24,28 229:1,4,25 242:12,26 243:4 261:14 310:16

wrong 199:25 235:14 296:7,8 316:10

wrote 176:25 188:20 190:11 242:14

wye 26:11,15,18,19 28:8 43:6,8,11 66:11 74:2,3,10 86:18 93:7,8 95:23 126:7,11,16,19 133:10 149:11,13,19 184:22 215:2 228:20,21 234:20,21 252:18 263:10,12,13

wyes 214:26 238:15

Wylatti 47:8,12,14 145:22

Υ

yard 40:2,9,10,14 58:9 73:23 78:1,2 79:4,6 86:8 131:23 184:18,24 241:12 284:11 288:5 306:9

yards 214:27 293:21

year 19:2 25:8,9 39:24 69:16 70:1 137:4 138:16,17 140:1 143:12 159:13 188:6 189:1 195:13 243:28 312:19, 27

year-round 143:8

years 9:27 13:17,26 14:1,21 17:24,26 31:15 33:3 41:21,22 51:24 55:26 61:20 72:6 84:23 87:24 102:12 103:26,28 144:3 158:19 161:10 189:27 195:14 217:21 247:17,20 294:17 307:14 310:21

yellow 100:12 154:26 156:15 224:26 225:2

yesterday 5:13 8:12
18:10 20:28 27:11
31:16 32:12 33:7,27
37:18 49:15 50:22 51:3
65:22 74:8 90:10
109:14 136:14,26
137:9,15 138:24 144:8
176:10,11 181:18
194:16,25 195:25 196:5
203:19 211:20 214:19
216:19 231:13 237:16
246:4 274:12 285:27
286:16 305:10 317:2,27

yield 149:28

Yup 244:14

Z

Zack 205:14,16,24 216:16

zoned 162:28 163:20, 22 194:17 195:4,5

zoning 163:23,24,27 164:8,14 194:22,26,28

zoo 210:26 237:1

Zoom 6:22,24 83:22,23 166:2 320:18,21

Superior Court of the State of California County of Mendocino