

studied with the build alternatives will be the siting of a new interchange in the vicinity of 36th Street NW., the addition of HOV lanes within the existing Rights of Way whenever possible, and the addition of toll facilities in the 24th Street vicinity.

Announcements describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State and local agencies. These announcements will also be set to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have interest in this proposal. A series of public scoping meetings will be held in Tacoma, Gig Harbor, and on the Kitsap Peninsula on March 11th, 12th, 13th, 18th, and 19th 1997. In addition, a public hearing on the Draft EIS will be held. Public notice will be given of the time and place of these meetings and of the hearing. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing.

It is important that the full range of issues related to this proposed action be addressed and that all significant issues be identified. To ensure this, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the FHWA at the address and phone number provided above. (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Research, Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Issued on February 14, 1997.

José M. Miranda,

*Environmental Program Manager, Olympia, Washington.*

[FR Doc. 97-4332 Filed 2-20-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-M

## Surface Transportation Board

[STB Ex Parte No. 546]

### Surface Transportation Board—1997 Office Relocation Business Plan

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Surface Transportation Board (the Board) is scheduled to relocate over the weekend of March 15-16, 1997. The Board is giving notice of pre-location and post-location procedures. The Board's new address will be: Surface Transportation Board,

1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** February 13, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Anne Quinlan, (202) 927-5679 (after March 16, 1997, (202) 565-1650); or Beryl Gordon, (202) 927-5660 (after March 16, 1997, (202) 565-1600). (TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 927-5721 (after March 16, 1997, (202) 565-1695).)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Board is issuing this notice to advise the public of its new location, effective March 17, 1997. The Board is scheduled to relocate its offices over the weekend of March 15-16, 1997. Its new address will be: Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, the Board is also giving the public advance notice that normal service to the public, including normal case intake and processing will not occur during the immediate pre-relocation and post-relocation dates of March 13, 1997, through March 18, 1997, due to necessary equipment relocation and other disruptions anticipated during the relocation.

The Board is, therefore, by this notice, announcing that mail will not be received and decisions will not be served on Thursday, March 13, 1997; Friday, March 14, 1997; Monday, March 17, 1997; and Tuesday, March 18, 1997, with the exception noted below. In particular, the Board will not serve decisions on March 13, 14, 17 or 18, 1997; the Board will not receive mail from March 13, through March 18, inclusive (mail delivery will resume thereafter at the new location); the Board will not accept non-mail filings (other than tariff filings) from March 13, 1997, through March 18, 1997, inclusive; the Board will not accept new case filings between March 13, 1997, and March 18, 1997, inclusive; and the Board will, for the duration of the period between March 13 and March 18, toll the time period for calculating the effective date of all Board decisions and notices that would otherwise be scheduled to take effect between March 13, 1997, and March 18, 1997, inclusive. Because of the number of time-sensitive matters handled by the Board, the Board is providing advance notice that case filings that would begin a proceeding and trigger a deadline for processing or for effectiveness will not be accepted during this period and that effectiveness of previously issued decisions, or previously filed self-executing notices (notices of exemption, for example) that would otherwise be scheduled to take effect between March 13, 1997, and

March 18, 1997, inclusive, will be delayed one day for every calendar day during the March 13-18 interval. Also, to avoid any potential unfairness to the public, the effectiveness of any notice of exemption filed on March 12, 1997, that would normally become effective in 7 days (on March 19, 1997), will be delayed one day for each of the 6 calendar days between March 13, 1997, and March 18, 1997, and thus will not be permitted to take effect until March 25, 1997. This should alleviate any problems that could otherwise be presented for those persons who wish to seek a stay of effectiveness or problems that might otherwise occur in connection with processing of offers of financial assistance to continue rail service following Board approval of a rail line abandonment or discontinuance.

The Board will continue to receive tariff filings during this interval (so as not to delay effectiveness of rate decreases for service in the noncontiguous domestic trade that may become effective on one day's notice).

DC News & Data, Inc., the official copy contractor for the Board, which is responsible for the duplication and distribution of Board decisions and orders to the public, will relocate its offices from 1201 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room 2229, Washington, DC, to 1925 K Street, NW, Suite 210, Washington, DC 20006. Telephone: (202) 289-4357. DC News & Data, Inc., will close its office from March 13, 1997, through March 18, 1997, and reopen for business on March 19, 1997.

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

Decided: February 13, 1997.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan and Vice Chairman Owen.

Vernon A. Williams,

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-4274 Filed 2-20-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

[STB Docket No. AB-397 (Sub-No. 5X)]

### Tulare Valley Railroad Company—Abandonment and Discontinuance Exemption—in Tulare and Kern Counties, CA

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice of exemption.

**SUMMARY:** Under 49 U.S.C. 10502, the Board exempts Tulare Valley Railroad Company (TVR) from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to permit TVR to abandon an 18.5-mile