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Subject: Opposition to Exemption from CEQA for Railroad related Activities
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Dear Governor Newsom, Senator Catherine Blakespear and other members of the California State And Local Legislatures, California Coastal Commission, and other interested parties:

I am strongly opposed to the LOSSAN Working Group's recommendation to create a new statutory exemption from CEQA for railroad-related activities and infrastructure projects (Recommendation 4.1 (3)). CEQA environmental review of such projects is critical to protecting the numerous environmentally sensitive areas in California that the railroad tracks traverse, including the 351-mile LOSSAN Corridor from San Luis Obispo to San Diego. This recommendation is an attempt at an end run to critical environmental oversight. I am very concerned that such an exemption would lead to substantial adverse environmental impacts, particularly to the coastal environment of Southern California, which has already been substantially adversely impacted by the LOSSAN Corridor. Please promptly and resolutely reject this recommendation from the Working Group.

**Respectfully,
Mark Rittenbaum**

Del Mar CA