

and in the Solicitation Package. All eligible proposals will be reviewed by the program office, as well as the Public Diplomacy Sections overseas.

Eligible proposals will be subject to compliance with Federal and Bureau regulations and guidelines and forwarded to Bureau grant panels for advisory review. Proposals may also be reviewed by the Office of the Legal Adviser or by other Department elements. Final funding decisions are at the discretion of the Department of State's Acting Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs. Final technical authority for grants resides with the Bureau's Grants Officer.

#### Review Criteria

Technically eligible applications will be competitively reviewed according to the criteria stated below. These criteria are not rank ordered and all carry equal weight in the proposal evaluation:

1. *Quality of the program idea:* Proposals should exhibit substance, precision, and relevance to the Bureau's mission.

2. *Program planning:* Detailed agenda and relevant work plan should demonstrate substantive undertakings and logistical capacity. Agenda and plan should adhere to the program overview and guidelines described above.

3. *Ability to achieve program objectives:* Objectives should be reasonable, feasible, and flexible. Proposals should clearly demonstrate how the institution will meet the program's objectives and plan.

4. *Support of Diversity:* Proposals should demonstrate substantive support of the Bureau's policy on diversity. Achievable and relevant features should be cited in both program administration and program content.

5. *Institutional Capacity and Experience:* Proposed personnel and institutional experience and resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the program or project's goals.

6. *Project Evaluation:* Proposals should include a plan to evaluate the activity's success.

7. *Cost-effectiveness:* The overhead and administrative components of the proposal should be kept as low as possible. All other items should be necessary and appropriate.

8. *Cost-sharing:* Proposals should maximize cost-sharing through other private sector support as well as institutional direct funding contributions.

**Authority:** Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of

1961, Public Law 87-256, as amended, also known as the Fulbright-Hays Act. The purpose of the Act is "to enable the Government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries \* \* \*; to strengthen the ties which unite us with other nations by demonstrating the educational and cultural interests, developments, and achievements of the people of the United States and other nations \* \* \* and thus to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world." The funding authority for the program above is provided through legislation. Partial funding for this grant will be provided by FREEDOM Support Act funds.

#### Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFGP are binding and may not be modified by any Bureau representative. Explanatory information provided by the Bureau that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFGP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The Bureau reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

#### Notification

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal Bureau procedures.

Dated: September 26, 2001.

**Helena Kane Finn,**

*Acting Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 01-24747 Filed 10-3-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4710-05-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34094]

#### Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority—Acquisition Exemption—Union Pacific Railroad Company

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire Union Pacific Railroad Company's (UP) railroad right-of-way and certain related improvements located in Santa Clara County, CA (line). The line is located between the south side of San Carlos

Avenue at approximately UP milepost 0.08, in San Jose, and the northerly boundary of the State Route 85 overpass at approximately UP milepost 5.77, in Vasona. VTA also will be acquiring UP's trackage, but not the underlying real estate constituting the right-of-way, between the point of switch off the UP Peninsula Corridor Main Line, at approximately UP milepost 0.00, and approximately UP milepost 0.08, on the Vasona Branch. The total distance of the right-of-way and trackage being acquired by VTA is approximately 5.8 route miles. VTA is acquiring the line in order to construct and operate an extension to its light rail transit system on a portion of the right-of-way. UP will retain a perpetual, exclusive easement for the continuation of freight rail service on the line. VTA will not obtain the right or obligation to conduct freight rail service on any portion of the line.

While the verified notice of exemption failed to indicate the proposed time schedule for consummation of this transaction, the earliest the transaction could be consummated was September 14, 2001, the effective date of the exemption. See 49 CFR 1150.33(e)(2).

If the notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*.<sup>1</sup> Petitions to reopen the proceeding to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 34094, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Kevin M. Sheys, Esq., Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP, 1800 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Second Floor, Washington, DC 20036.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at [www.stb.dot.gov](http://www.stb.dot.gov).

Decided: September 26, 2001.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

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<sup>1</sup> A motion to dismiss has been filed by VTA in this proceeding. The motion will be addressed in a subsequent Board decision.