

FASANA MOTION

Storage of Surplus Railcars in Communities

May 28, 2009

Tens of thousands of railcars are sitting idle all over the country, parked indefinitely by railroads whose freight volumes have plummeted along with the economy. The nation's five largest railroads, which have seen shipping volumes drop by double-digit percentages in recent months, have put more than 30% of their boxcars -- 206,000 in all -- into storage, according to the Association of American Railroads. Residents of our communities, stuck with these newly immobile objects, see strings of rail cars sitting unused as a nuisance and an eyesore. Rail cars, idled by the slump in shipping caused by the recession, have sat for months as magnets for tagging.

If in doubt as to how much the economic downturn has slammed trade, look no further than a three-mile stretch of unused railcars marooned in the San Gabriel Valley. Because of declining shipments from the local ports, the Burlington Santa Fe Railway has parked 180 railcars along a track that stretches from Arcadia to Irwindale--attracting graffiti and community outrage.

In an effort to address the concerns throughout Los Angeles County regarding the impact of stored railcars attracting graffiti and blight,

I move that the CEO report back at the June 25, 2009 meeting of the Board and provide information on the following:

- Are there any railcars currently being stored on Metro controlled right of way and if so, where is the storage located and how many railcars are being stored.
- Determine locations and numbers of railcars being stored on non-Metro controlled rights of way.
- Determine what measures can be taken to immediately cover up (paint over) the graffiti