



Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society, Inc.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CALTRANS APPROVES SOCIETY TURNTABLE FOR INSTALLATION

Fillmore, California -- The California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) came through with final approval and authorization to proceed with the construction of Phase One of the Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society's (SCRVRHS) Railroad Interpretive Center Projects' turntable installation. In a letter, dated August 26, 2004, CalTrans authorized the release of some \$250,000 in Federal and State transportation grants obtained by the Society well over three years ago. Without State approval by October 2004, the Society would have lost its quarter of a million dollars in grant monies. It took CalTrans two years to complete its project review.

The Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society purchased the railroad turntable from the Canadian National Railroad in 1997. The 96 foot long, 80 ton rotating 'bridge' was built in 1906 and underwent a complete mechanical overhaul two years prior to its purchase by SCRVRHS. A team of Society volunteers traveled to Capreal Canada where the CN railroad disassembled and loaded the turntable and its components onto two CN flatcars. The Union Pacific Railroad then moved the 'longest single load ever across country' to Santa Paula, California where the Fillmore & Western Railway brought it home to the SCRVRHS Fillmore, California location at 312 Main Street. Donated OST cranes unloaded the turntable and sat it upside down so that it could be repaired. The underside was welded then painted with 110 gallons of black paint donated by the Rust-Oleum Corporation. The motor was rewired locally to meet U.S. electrical standards. The topside of the table will be further repaired, if necessary, and also

painted black. Once installation is complete, this increasingly rare piece of historic railroad equipment will be one of only a handful of operable turntables located in California.

In its letter, CalTrans listed the City of Fillmore as the responsible public agency for project oversight. Estimated construction costs are \$227,354. The Society will provide its grant required share of the construction funds totaling \$25,382. This money, generated through fund raising activities and tax deductible donations, is already appropriated. The majority of installation dollars will come from grant funds.

As grant administrator, the City of Fillmore has chosen the firm of Willdan as the contract administrator. Willdan is an engineering, planning, and financial management firm dedicated to serving the individual needs of cities, towns, counties, special districts, as well as state and federal agencies. Established in 1964, Willdan has offices throughout California, Arizona, and Nevada that serve more than 400 public sector clients. Willdan has a local office in nearby Ventura, California. Willdan will oversee the entire project including the project bidding, construction process; grant covenants, and Federal/State reporting requirements, and all required paperwork.

As part of the project, the City has formed a Project Oversight Committee. This committee will consist of representatives from the City, Willdan and SCRVRHS. Society Board of Director members Roy Payton and Rick Swanson will serve as SCRVRHS representatives. Roy Payton, a civil engineer experienced in railroad bridges and turntables, did the design work and engineering plans for the turntable installation. Roy also was part of the Society team that oversaw the removal of the turntable from its original home in Capreal Canada. Rick Swanson is experienced in commercial construction planning and project oversight. Construction is estimated to take at least three months and is scheduled to begin after the first of the year.

The original concept of the SCRVRHS Railroad Interpretive Center began in 1995. It includes three construction phases: Phase One, and the centerpiece of the project, is the 96 foot, 1906 railroad turntable. Phase Two consists of building a small, three stall roundhouse to both display and perform maintenance on Society rolling stock. Phase Three adds an Interpretive Center building to the rear of the roundhouse. Plans call for the Society's existing Railroad Visitor Center, in the former City of Fillmore firehouse, to be relocated to the new Interpretive Center building when completed. Funds are currently

being raised by the Society for phases two and three.

Established in 1993, the 130 member Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society, Inc. was organized as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization to assist in the preservation and restoration of the railroad corridor between Montalvo and Saugus California. Its goals are to maximize the economic, educational and recreational value of this unique historic asset for the residents of the Santa Clara River Valley and the surrounding area. To this end, the Society aims to acquire, preserve, restore, exhibit and operate historic railroad equipment, and acquire, preserve, display and make available for study artifacts, information and photographs pertaining to railroad equipment, structures and operations in the Southern California region.

For more information on the Society and the Railroad Interpretive Center, visit www.scrvrhs.com.