

# Placerville & Sacramento Valley Railroad, Inc. and the California Public Utilities Commission

**Background:** Placerville & Sacramento Valley Railroad, Inc. (P&SVRR) is a 501(c)3 Not-for-Profit Corporation formed in 2008 by members of the Folsom, El Dorado and Sacramento Historical Railroad Association (FEDSHRA), in order to develop and operate a Non-Insular Tourist Railroad on portions of the former Southern Pacific Railroad “Placerville Branch”, now known as the Sacramento Placerville Transportation Corridor (SPTC).

The term “Non-Insular” refers to railroads which, among other things, cross public roadways. Any such rail operation in the State of California falls under the jurisdiction of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), a regulatory agency formed in 1911 (originally as the Railroad Commission), and tasked with ensuring the public safety on and around railroads (and later other transportation and utility infrastructure).

The formal relationship between P&SVRR and CPUC began with the application in late 2008 to reactivate White Rock Road Grade Crossing. This 5 year project - initiated, planned and executed by P&SVRR in accordance with all CPUC regulations and guidelines – was only the first of many examples of proactive engagement with CPUC. In the Spring of 2009, not long after the White Rock Road application was submitted, P&SVRR again approached CPUC, this time to arrange a trip on the railroad so that a CPUC representative could review both the scope of our program and our initial flagging procedures. That trip, as well as the many subsequent emails, phone calls and meetings since, has culminated in the adoption of P&SVRR's formal Flagger Training Handbook and our Roadworker Safety Training Program, also known as Part 214 Training (after the governing regulations).

**Today:** After more than four full seasons, the last two of which have included limited operations with the full size train, the relationship between P&SVRR and CPUC is as strong and productive as ever. We urge anyone reviewing or creating policy regarding our operations to keep in mind the following:

- CPUC regulations and authority are **exactly** the same on **both** sides of the County Line.
- CPUC representatives have **visited** our operation several times to keep abreast of our progress.
- P&SVRR is **constantly** reviewing and updating our Safety Procedures.
- P&SVRR maintains **One Million Dollars** in Liability Insurance (Two Million in Aggregate).
- P&SVRR has **always** carried El Dorado County as an Additional Insured on that Policy.
- Rights-of-Entry need only **stipulate** that P&SVRR comply with all FRA and CPUC Regs.