



March 21, 2019

TO: El Dorado County Parks and Recreation Commission  
FROM: Mary Cory, Museum Administrator  
RE: Requesting a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to authorize full-size train operations on the SPTC from El Dorado Road to Missouri Flat Road

The El Dorado County Historical Museum operates the El Dorado Western Railroad Program, approved by the Board of Supervisors. The next step in the County Museum's plan for the El Dorado Western Railroad, as presented and approved by the Board of Supervisors in 2014 (Agenda #14-0748), is full-size train operations on the historic track from MP 142.25 to MP 144.70 (El Dorado Road to end-of-tracks at Missouri Flat Road.) Track improvements, equipment certification, and crew training are being accomplished by the volunteers. Standards for improvements and rail operations will be conducted according to Federal Railroad Administration and California Public Utilities regulations.

As part of the planned full-size train operation, the at-grade signal equipment should be reinstalled at Forni Road to increase the safety of that particular road crossing. El Dorado Western Railroad volunteers have a plan to install the equipment and funding will be sought through donations.

As directed by the Board of Supervisors in 2014, trail development and rail program development is progressing at the same time. In this same section of the SPTC, the paved trail will be constructed by County DOT in 2019 and the Natural Trail has been identified, and will be constructed by volunteers under the supervision of the County Parks Division.

I am asking this Commission to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to:

1. Authorize the use of standard rolling stock on the section of track from MP 142.25 to MP 144.70 (just east of El Dorado Road to just west of Missouri Flat Road) in compliance with Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) requirements
2. The re-installation of At-Grade Crossing equipment at the Forni Road railroad crossing according to CPUC requirements, with funding from non-General Fund sources.

In reference to my previous presentation to the Parks & Recreation Commission on November 5, 2018, I plan to return to the Parks & Recreation Commission in April with a revised draft of the SPTC Train Operations and Track Maintenance Plan for approval.