

Memorandum

January 25, 2016

TO: Vickie Sanders, County Parks Manager

FROM: Mary Dakers, Bruce Cunha, Peter Schulze
El Dorado Western Railroad Volunteers

CC: Mary Cory, Museum Administrator

RE: Railroad Maintenance and Operation Plan for the SPTC

El Dorado Western Railroad Mission:

The El Dorado Western Railroad preserves the county's railroading history by partnering with the El Dorado County Historical Museum to provide a dynamic living history railroad experience for the public, and by maintaining and operating on the historic Placerville Branch of the Southern Pacific Railroad.

The following items are requested to be approved by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors (BOS) to allow the El Dorado Western Railroad the ability to complete its mission.

1. The El Dorado Western Railroad is designated as the county's railroad.
2. The El Dorado Western Railroad is responsible for the maintenance of the continuous track structure within the Sacramento Placerville Transportation Corridor (SPTC) from Missouri Flat Road to the El Dorado County Line (Mile Post 144.7 to 119).
3. El Dorado Western Railroad will provide passenger rail excursions from Missouri Flat Road to the Shingle Springs Depot.
4. The El Dorado Western Railroad will be tasked with evaluating requests to use the track from other rail-based users.

Plan Details

1. Maintenance includes but is not limited to:
 - Repairing, replacing and restoring track, ties and switches
 - Repairing damage to rail bed, bridges, culverts, and any other conditions that will cause a safety issue with regards to continuous operation of the railroad. Repairs will be done whether caused by man or nature.
 - Installing and maintaining railroad signage
 - Brush, weed and tree removal 10 feet on each side of the track and 20 feet above which might impede safe railroad operation
 - Maintaining all current and future railroad equipment and vehicles for safe operation
 - All maintenance will be done to professional railroad standards and practices, and will comply with all Federal operating regulations.

2. Excursion Service includes

- Transporting the public along the railroad.
- Historical interpretation of the county's railroading history, exhibits, special events and historical reenactment, as part of the Living History program.
- Excursion services will be run on weekends only, during daylight hours, as stated in the 2003 SPTC Master Plan.
- Excursions are cancelled/halted in the event of adverse weather conditions
- Historically appropriate passenger-carrying rail-based vehicles will be added as they become available and are restored.
- No excursion service is currently planned for the section of track west of Shingle Springs to Latrobe. This section of track will be used to periodically move rail equipment for maintenance of the track and to transport equipment in and out of the County.
- At a point in the future when the track west of Shingle Springs to Latrobe is brought up to standards and certified for passenger excursion service, a request will be made to the BOS to allow excursion service in this section of track.
- Passenger rail excursion service will also be allowed from Latrobe to the El Dorado County Line.

3. Use of El Dorado County rails for other users:

- El Dorado Western will evaluate requests for use of the tracks by other users for safety measures, adequate crew training and certifications, appropriate road crossing safety protocols, and safe equipment.
- El Dorado County's Track Warrant procedures will be followed
- Proof of insurance must be provided and meet El Dorado County's requirements
- The El Dorado Western Railroad General Manager will designate trained and experience staff to evaluate the requests and inform the Museum Administrator and the Parks Manager, and provide documentation
- The General Manager will assist county staff on the development of adequate fees or in-kind service for the use of the tracks by other organizations and rail groups

Future Goals and Plans

1. Work with County staff to design and build the El Dorado County Railroad History Center and Park
2. Establish maintenance yards at the End-of-Line near Missouri Flat Road and near the Shingle Springs Depot.
3. Repair any and all damaged areas on the track that prevent full use of the tracks
4. Eventually expand excursion service
5. Work with other SPTC user groups to install proper signage, safe track crossings, and alternative bridge crossings