



# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## All Aboard! Season Begins For Steam-Powered Excursion Trains on April 25-26

***“Sacramento Southern Railroad” Book Signing & Special Lecture Opportunity  
On Saturday Only***

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** – All aboard! The California State Railroad Museum’s popular excursion railroad, the Sacramento Southern Railroad, officially returns to operation on the weekend of April 25-26, a few weeks later than planned due to construction on the riverfront promenade expansion project in Old Sacramento. Once underway, excursion trains depart every hour on-the-hour weekends through September in Old Sacramento. And, as a special opportunity during opening weekend, Kevin Hecteman, a crew member on the Sacramento Southern and author of the recently released *Sacramento Southern Railroad* book published by Arcadia Publishing, will be available for book signings and will also present a special lecture on the same topic in the Museum Theater.

Since 1984, more than one million guests have taken a ride aboard the Sacramento Southern Railroad, served by all-volunteer crews fully trained and certified under Federal Railroad Administration regulations. Each spring, the Sacramento Southern Railroad takes center stage as visitors enjoy the sights, smells and sounds of an authentic, working steam locomotive as it rolls along the levees of the Sacramento River. Of appeal to all ages, the experience offers guests the chance to experience train travel from an earlier era. Interestingly, train tracks are actually on top of the levee, providing an excellent view of the river, including boats and other watercraft. Along the way, the train crosses Capitol Mall at Tower Bridge; passes under Pioneer Bridge; and rolls alongside the Miller Park Marina before stopping at Baths, an historical point along the line. At Baths, the steam engine then uncouples from the front of the train, “runs around” the train on a sidetrack, and couples onto the other end of the train before sounding its whistle to begin the return trip to Old Sacramento.

*More-*

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This unique experience and historic route is also the topic of the newly released book, *Sacramento Southern Railroad*, which is now available for purchase in the Museum store. Passionate rail enthusiast and new book author Kevin Hecteman will be available for book signings on Saturday, April 25, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. near the Sacramento Southern Railroad ticket window. Proceeds from the sale of his book will be generously donated back to the California State Railroad Museum Foundation to support Sacramento Southern Railroad operations. In addition to the book signing opportunity, Hecteman will deliver a special 40-minute lecture about the Sacramento Southern Railroad in the Museum Theater on Saturday, April 25, beginning at 3 p.m.

Excursion trains depart from the Central Pacific Railroad Freight Depot in Old Sacramento (located on Front Street between J and K Streets). Guests are treated to a six-mile, 40-minute roundtrip excursion along the levees of the Sacramento River. The train features a combination of vintage closed coaches with comfortable seats, and open-air “gondolas” with bench style seating. Regular excursion train tickets are currently \$8 adults, \$3 youths (ages 6-17), ages 5 and under ride free. For passengers desiring a ride aboard the first-class car *El Dorado*, tickets are \$15 per person.

Reservations are not available for regular Sacramento Southern Railroad excursion train rides. All train tickets (including first-class upgrades to ride in VIP style on the beautifully restored *El Dorado* observation car) are sold starting at 10:30 a.m. at the Sacramento Southern Railroad ticket office, located on Front Street between “J” and “K” Streets in Old Sacramento. Although tickets are sold on a first-come, first-served basis, passengers may purchase tickets earlier in the day for a later train departure that same day. For updated 24-hour information or directions to the Museum, call (916) 445-6645 or visit [www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org](http://www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org).

*\*Reservations are available only to groups desiring exclusive use of first-class car El Dorado; the same fee applies regardless of the size of group, from one to 30. Reservations must be made at least two weeks in advance, and a non-refundable deposit applies. To reserve car El Dorado for your group, call (916) 445-3145.*

*Operated by California State Parks with assistance from the nonprofit CSRM Foundation, the California State Railroad Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Day. Widely regarded as North America’s finest and most-visited railroad museum, the complex of facilities includes the 100,000-sq. ft. Railroad History Museum plus the reconstructed Central Pacific Railroad Passenger Station and Freight Depot, 1849 Eagle Theatre, and Big Four and Dingley Spice Mill buildings in Old Sacramento. 24-hour info: (916) 445-6645 or [www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org](http://www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org).*

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