**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION** Divisions of Boating and Waterways, Historic Preservation and Off-Highway Vehicles

## **News Release**

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## Railtown 1897 Seeks Interested Volunteers & Hosts Special Open House on January 30

**JAMESTOWN**, **Calif.** (January 15, 2016) – Fascinated by trains? Love working as part of a team? Enjoy meeting with people from near and far? California State Parks and Railtown 1897 State Historic Park (SHP) are now accepting applications for people interested in volunteering to help communicate the fascinating railroading history of the "Movie Railroad" in the beautiful Sierra foothills. Interested volunteers are encouraged to attend a Volunteer Open House on Saturday, January 30, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteer applications must be submitted by Wednesday, February 10, and a thorough volunteer training program will begin in February. Community members are encouraged to join this worthwhile program that offers an opportunity to support the local state historic park while learning more about California's rich history, meeting new people and developing friendships with those who share similar interests.

While no previous experience with trains or public service is required, recruitment is currently underway for Car Host and Tour Guide volunteer positions in 2016. At the Open House, prospective volunteers will have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with Park staff and talk with current volunteers to learn about the various positions that are available. Informal tours of the operation will be conducted, and snacks will be served.

Railtown 1897 SHP is known for its century-old steam maintenance shops and train rides, including popular rides behind the famous "Movie Star Locomotive" Sierra No. 3. In addition to weekend excursion steam trains (April through October), Railtown 1897 SHP offers daily tours, roving interpreters, and many special events.

Benefits for volunteering at Railtown 1897 SHP include membership in the California State Railroad Museum Foundation, free admission to and train rides at Railtown 1897 SHP and at the California State Railroad Museum, a variety of social activities, interesting training opportunities and guest speakers, discounts at the Depot Store, and participation in an annual volunteer recognition dinner. Interested volunteers can download a volunteer application at <u>www.railtown1897.org</u> or call 209-984-4408 for more information.

Every Californian should take steps to conserve water. Find out how at <u>SaveOurWater.com</u>

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## California State Parks Mission

To provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high quality outdoor recreation.

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