

News Release



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Historic Locomotive Restoration Begins at Railtown 1897 State Historic Park

Rail fans and casual visitors to Railtown 1897 State Historic Park have the rare opportunity to see restoration of the historic steam locomotive "Sierra No. 28" up close thanks to a newly signed donor agreement that funds the work. Visitors are invited to tour the shops to see the work as it progresses, and follow along online at www.railtown1897.wordpress.com.

Sierra No. 28 has been a mainstay for passenger operations since the facility became a state park in 1982. The locomotive will be repaired while on public display in the roundhouse. Visitors can watch as crews remove and replace corroded and worn out metal parts and inspect and repair the boiler. The work is anticipated to be completed by the summer of 2014.

California State Parks recently finalized a matching fund partnership donor agreement with the California State Park Railroad Museum Foundation to keep Railtown 1897 State Historic Park operating for the next two years. The agreement was made possible by the AB 1478 Match Program, which appropriated \$10 million back to State Parks to match contributions by donor and operating partners.

The Association has been Railtown 1897's SHP's non-profit partner for over 20 years. The agreement also represents an enormous effort by the local community. As part of the "Keep Railtown Rolling" five Tuolumne County Rotary clubs united with business and community leaders and the Sonora Area Foundation to help raise the matching funds.

"The last couple of years have been very challenging ones for the park and it's been gratifying to see so many come together to work to keep the doors open. We are pleased to see that our fundraising efforts are going to result in something that will help the park better meet its potential into the future," said Kathy Daigle, Executive Director of the California State Railroad Museum

Foundation.

In addition to maintenance projects, the matching funds will be used for interpretive program development and to enhance the park's public and school programs. Funding will also be used to complete National & State Historic Register nominations for locomotives and buildings. Together, these projects will better position the park to increase visitation, improve revenue generation and demonstrate the park's statewide significance.

Shop tours are scheduled every Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. to Noon and are free to the public with paid park admission. Railtown 1897 SHP admission costs are as follows: \$5 for adults, \$3 for youths ages 6-17 and free for children five and under.

All train ride tickets include Park admission and are available for advance purchase at www.railtown1897.org as well as at the ticket window beginning at 10 a.m. the day of the train ride (based on availability). Capacity is limited for tickets for the steam-powered excursion train rides so visitors are encouraged to arrive early. Excursion train rides are available hourly from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and tickets aboard "Movie Train Consist" (enclosed suburban car and caboose)" are \$15 for adults, \$8 for youths ages 6-17 and kids five and under are free.

For more information about Railtown 1897 SHP call (209) 984-3953 or see the park webpage at <http://www.railtown1897.org/>. More information about National Train Day is available by visiting www.nationaldaytrain.com.

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