



County Administrator's Office

Craig L. Pedro
County Administrator

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April 4, 2014

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Karl Rodefer, 5th District Supervisor
Craig L. Pedro, County Administrator *cab*

SUBJECT: Support for Nomination of *Sierra Railroad Shops* (Railtown) as a California Historical Landmark

As part of the 150th anniversary of California State Parks, the State Office of Historical Preservation has prepared an application for listing "*Sierra Railroad Shops*" (Railtown) as a California Historical Landmark (Attachment B). The State Historic Resource Commission will be meeting to consider this and similar State Park nominations at its April 22, 2014 meeting. Supervisor Rodefer has asked that the Board approve a letter supporting this nomination (Attachment A). The nomination's summary is as follows:

Sierra Railway Shops in Jamestown, Tuolumne County, is the last surviving short-line steam railroad shops and turntable in California, and the most significant "movie railroad" in the state. The Shops first began operation in 1897 and were the Sierra Railroad's main shops until 1955. The Shops include the turntable and roundhouse, freight depot, ancillary shops buildings, motive power and rolling stock associated with the Shops and the railroad.

Aside from the recognition of Railtown as a place of historical significance, this listing will: 1) afford a level of protection for Railtown through required environmental review under CEQA if the property is ever threatened by a project; and 2) may help it qualify for State historic preservation grant funding in the future.

The Board should also be apprised that State Parks will be pursuing a Federal Historic Landmark designation for Railtown at some point in the future. A letter of support for that nomination can be prepared at the appropriate time.

Recommendation

It is recommended that your Board approve the attached letter supporting the listing of "*Sierra Railroad Shops*" (Railtown) as a California Historical Landmark.

Cc: Kim Baker, Railtown Park Superintendent
Bev Shane, CRA Director
Tuolumne County Historical Preservation Review Commission

...serving the Board of Supervisors, departments, and the community as good stewards of the County's fiscal and human resources through collaborative, professional and ethical leadership.

Board of Supervisor Letterhead

April 15, 2014

State Historic Review Commission
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA. 94296-0001

Re: Support for Listing Sierra Railroad Shops (Railtown) as a California
Historical Landmark

Dear Commissioners:

The Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors desires to go on record as supporting the nomination of *Sierra Railroad Shops* (Railtown) for listing as a California Historical Landmark. We concur with the information contained in the application for this listing and would add that the entire complex including its rolling stock are considered historic treasures of our County.

Further, the upkeep and ongoing operation of Railtown is considered essential for the education and enjoyment of future generations who visit the Park. We hope that the proposed State listing and potential future listing as a Federal Historical Landmark will assist with the securing of funding necessary to preserve Railtown.

Thank you in advance for your positive consideration of the nomination of *Sierra Railroad Shops* (Railtown) for listing as a California Historical Landmark.

Sincerely,

EVAN ROYCE
Chairman

Cc: Senator Tom Berryhill
Assemblyman Frank Bigelow
Kim Baker, Railtown Park Superintendent