

NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CENTRAL COAST CHAPTER



P.O. BOX 434, SANTA CLARA, CA 95052-0434

February 16, 2008

The Hon. Rod Diridon
Executive Director
Mineta Transportation Institute
210 North 4th Street, 4th Floor
San Jose, CA 95192-0219

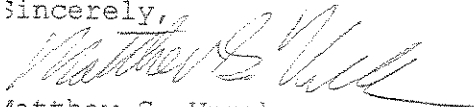
Dear Mr. Diridon:

On behalf of the members and officers of the Central Coast Chapter-National Railway Historical Society, I would like to thank you very much for your presentation on the proposed San Jose Railroad Museum at our monthly membership meeting last night.

Our organization was incorporated in San Jose back in 1952. Since that time, numerous railroad structures, depots and facilities (and much of their associated ephemera) within Santa Clara County have been lost to history due to the lack of any sort of railroad-specific museum. Such a museum may have had the opportunity to preserve some of these structures and artifacts. The site of the Western Pacific Railroad freight train yard and roundhouse is now a housing development. The College Park interlocking tower and the Agnew freight depot both burned down. The Newhall freight yard tower was torn down and its large freight train yard was dismantled. The railroad depots in Milpitas, Mountain View, Campbell, Los Gatos, Sunnyvale and Morgan Hill were all razed. The downtown San Jose freight stations of both Southern Pacific and Western Pacific were also razed. Even such diverse entities as the Moffett Field Naval Air Station, the Accent factory in San Jose and two San Jose brick companies all had their own small railroad operations...and all evidence of which is now gone.

Based on the above information, our chapter heartily supports and endorses the establishment of the San Jose Railroad Museum at its proposed location. There is currently no railroad museum in the Bay Area which is able to preserve, restore and operate main line railroad equipment in an environment which would be a fitting showcase for the public. This museum would serve to preserve and protect the area's railroad history for future generations as well as honor the significant role the railroads played in the development of the Santa Clara Valley.

Sincerely,


Matthew G. Vurek
Chapter President

The Central Coast Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization pursuant to Internal Revenue Service regulation 501(3)c with ID number 94-3118070