



January 18, 2008

CALIFORNIA PIONEERS
OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

Rod Diridon
 San Jose Trolley Corporation
 210 N. Fourth Street 4th Floor
 San Jose, CA 95192-0219

Dear Mr. Diridon,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, I am writing to thank you for your presentation January 14, 2008 on the master plan for a proposed Historic Railroad Museum located in San Jose. Our board feels your proposed Railroad Museum would be a perfect fit at the historic Bassett Street site. We hope that you consider incorporating two other outstanding, regionally specific transportation collections in your master plan:

- San Jose's historic fire equipment collection (owned by the San Jose Fire Museum and stored at San Jose's Corporation Yard on Senter Road)
- The Bohnett Collection which includes historic buggies, carriages and automobiles from Santa Clara County (owned by the city of San Jose, stored at the Julian Street Warehouse and curated by History San Jose)

By combining these three underutilized and underexposed collections, San Jose could be the home of a world class transportation museum. Including these other collections would also broaden your scope of support, creating a greater opportunity to raise money. The current lean economic environment reminds us that non profits need to band together to ensure their visions come to fruition.

A first class transportation museum would both promote San Jose's rich heritage and generate much needed tourism dollars in our downtown. The railroads played a very important part in forming San Jose and Santa Clara County, along with shaping our country. This important story needs to be told. Your proposed site, located in California's first city and first state capitol, offers the perfect setting.

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, a 501c3, established in 1875, has always felt that our community must understand our past in order to appreciate the present and guide us to a bright future. We unanimously endorse the project and hope you achieve success in acquiring the site and receiving the needed funds. Please keep us posted as the project continues.

Sincerely,

James R. Zetterquist
 President, California Pioneers of Santa Clara County

Cc: Mayor Reed; SJ City Council Members; Alida Bray-CEO-HSJ; John McMillan, President Fire Museum

