

FEATHER RIVER RAIL SOCIETY

DATE: November, 2015
ITEM: New Business 1
FROM: Eugene Vicknair
SUBJECT: **San Jose Branch Crossing Equipment**

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Agency is the current owner of the former WP San Jose Branch from Milpitas south. Several miles of the branch trackage are still on the ground along with some of the crossing equipment, including several flashers, a pair of cantilever signals and several cabinets.

The city would like to retain some of the equipment for future displays as they turn the right of way into a trail, but the VTA is planning to remove all the material soon. The city would have to reinstall what they want later. Also, the California Trolley and Rail Corporation may also want some signal material for display.

They currently have no available storage space available, but I was contacted by Ken Middlebrook of CTCR and History San Jose asking if we would be interested in any of the equipment.

I am proposing that we consider using a boxcar as storage for all the crossing materials (at least 7 gates, 2 cantilevers and 4 equipment cabinets). We would receive donation of some of the materials in return for storage of some materials for San Jose and CTCR. We could use them for displays or install on the proposed track extension into Old Town, or at current crossings around the property. Also, there are some concrete crossing panels that may be part of the materials.

This could lead to more opportunities. About 3 miles of good, 100# and larger rail and switches are still on the ground. This could be an in to get some of this donated, which could be used to rebuild the balloon and even expand into Old Town.

Details are still being worked out. I am seeking consensus approval of the basic concept and authority to negotiate on behalf of the FRRS with the VTA, San Jose and CTCR.

As I understand, VTA would be doing the removal and we would need to provide the transport from San Jose. One possibility may be to send our road boxcar or a flat car to San Jose and position it in Milpitas to receive the equipment. I will know more as the plans develop.