



News Release

For Immediate Release
March 23, 2015

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All Aboard...Steam Train Rides Return to the Sacramento Southern Railroad on April 11! *Granite Rock No. 10 Returns to Service after Extensive Boiler Repairs*

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Soon after the opening weekend of the 32nd consecutive season of excursion train rides on the Sacramento Southern Railroad on Easter weekend (April 4 & 5, 2015), California State Parks and the California State Railroad Museum are pleased to announce vintage steam locomotive Granite Rock No. 10 will return to service on April 11, 2015. First introduced in May 1997 by the California State Railroad Museum, Granite Rock No. 10 was taken out of service in 2011 for extensive boiler repairs during which time diesel locomotives pulled the excursion trains. Granite Rock No. 10 is an oil-fired steam engine built by the H.K. Porter Co. for the U.S. Army in 1942.

To celebrate its official return to service, guests to Old Sacramento State Historic Park can enjoy special viewing opportunities of Granite Rock No. 10 all weekend long. On both Saturday and Sunday mornings beginning at 8 a.m., the public is invited to watch as the Sacramento Southern Railroad crew lights the fire and prepares the vintage steam locomotive for its first official days of service. With narration provided by knowledgeable Museum docents, the locomotive will be steamed up near the turntable beginning with the tossing of a burning rag into the firebox, then the crew will work to fuel, lubricate and water the engine as the boiler is slowly brought up to temperature.

Special steam-related activities will be taking place inside the California State Railroad Museum – North America’s most popular rail museum – all weekend long as well. A few of the activities happening on both days include a steam locomotive passport scavenger hunt, Granite Rock No. 10 children’s book readings at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the East Theater, and “How a Steam Locomotive Works” presentations at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. also in the East Theater. Additionally, the Museum Store will be well stocked with Granite Rock No. 10 merchandise for steam lovers of all ages.

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Once returned to service, Granite Rock No. 10 will pull the museum's regular weekend excursion trains. Passengers will delight in the sights, smells and sounds of an authentic, vintage steam locomotive as it rolls along the levees of the Sacramento River for a six-mile, 45-minute roundtrip excursion. Periodically, Old Sacramento visitors can also enjoy special "Diesel Days" throughout the season when the excursion trains are pulled by two gracefully-styled and visually exciting streamlined diesel locomotives. Diesel or steam, excursion train rides offers guests with the chance to enjoy train travel from an earlier era. The train features a combination of vintage closed coaches with comfortable seats, and open-air "gondolas" with bench style seating. A First Class service is also available, with refreshments served aboard an air-conditioned, vintage lounge car.

Excursion train ride tickets are available to book online in advance at www.csrmf.org or can be purchased in-person starting at 10:30 a.m. the day of the train ride (based on availability) at the Sacramento Southern Railroad ticket office located on Front Street between J and K Streets. All excursion trains depart from the Central Pacific Railroad Freight Depot in Old Sacramento (located on Front Street between J and K Streets). Departures are on-the-hour from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the weekends the trains are running.

Effective April 1, 2015, regular excursion train tickets cost \$12 for adults, \$6 for youths (ages 6-17), and ages five and under ride free. For passengers desiring a ride aboard a first-class car, tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for youths and are free for children five and under (there is a per-ticket service fee when booking online). Special note: for the first few weeks of the excursion train ride season, the Southern Pacific No. 291 "French Quarter" lounge car will operate as the first-class car while the *El Dorado* is being serviced. Known for its eye-catching bright pink décor with white iron work, the "French Quarter" 1950s vintage lounge car was donated to the California State Railroad Museum in 1998 by Union Pacific. Groups interested in reserving an entire first-class car for a regularly scheduled ride need to do so in advance by calling 916-322-8485. If summer temperatures reach 100 degrees or higher, trains may be cancelled for the remainder of that day. For more information about the weekend excursion train rides or the California State Railroad Museum in general, please call 916-323-9280 or visit www.csrmf.org

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