



Innovation in Community-Driven Railway Technology

Mendocino Railway

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Mendocino Railway
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KUDOS TO PARALLEL SYSTEMS SAYS SIERRA NORTHERN RAILWAY

Ventura County, California – (January ##, 2024) – Sierra Northern Railway and Sunburst Train applaud Parallel Systems in their successful new “Platooning” test in Southern California.

Parallel Systems announced late last month that their battery-electric freight cars can now “form platoons through bumper-to-bumper contact.” This autonomous platooning eliminates the need for traditional coupling. Its un-manned electric hookup now allows freight to be sorted on the rail network.

“It is so gratifying to see this happening right in our backyard,” says Kennan H. Beard III, President of Sierra Northern Railway. “When we designated a section of rail for Parallel Systems to use east of Fillmore, we were excited about the work they were doing in the industry.

The improved energy efficiency of the freight cars, the independent braking, and bumper-to-bumper contact all offer a much-needed flexibility in railyard and freight delivery. Well done, Parallel Systems.”

Sierra Northern Railway and Mendocino Railway, parent company of Sunburst Train, applaud the innovations on rail lines they are using for multiple rail services: adding unique entertainment opportunities in the form of Railbikes in Santa Paula; continuing freight services for Southern California industry; and maintaining an important transportation corridor in an area largely suffering from gridlock.

Sierra Northern Railway (SERA) was formed in 2003 through the merger of two Northern California shortline railroads: the Sierra Railroad Company and the Yolo Shortline Railroad. The company became the contract operator of the Santa Paula Branch Line in 2022. The Santa Paula Branch Line was originally constructed as a standard-gauge railroad by the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1887. The track was used extensively by Southern Pacific as late as the 1950s to haul citrus from packing houses to communities along the Santa Clara River. The line was purchased

from Southern Pacific Railroad by the Ventura County Transportation Commission in 1995 and leased for many years to the Fillmore and Western Railway, which hosted excursion trains and film shoots. Sierra Northern Railway's sister company, Mendocino Railway, owns and operates the California Western Railroad / Skunk Train in Mendocino County, and the River Fox Train in Sacramento, and is running the Sunburst Train operation.

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