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**Sierra Pacific Industries Donates Historical Amador Rail Line to Preservation Groups**

**Anderson, CA** – Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) today announced that it has donated over 10 miles of the historical Amador Foothills Railroad (Amador Central Railroad) to the Amador County Historical Society (ACHS) and the RRC Historical Society (RRC). The donation was made by SPI to assure that this piece of Sierra foothill history will be preserved and maintained in the future.

“We are overjoyed that Sierra Pacific has been so generous with this gift” said RRC President Larry Bowler. “Although it was a valuable asset to SPI, the company chose to preserve the rail line rather than develop the property for other uses. This is a model of corporate philanthropy and is appreciated by historians and rail buffs throughout the nation” he added. The RRC Historical Society represents a group of dedicated rail enthusiasts who use the tracks for recreational and historical purposes on small rail cars known as “speeders.”

Larry Cenotto, President of the ACHS, stated “The Amador Foothills Railroad is one of the most valuable historical assets in Amador County - a central piece of the county’s history will now be preserved thanks to Sierra Pacific Industries.” In all, thirty three parcels of land were deeded to the two organizations. The line, surveyed in 1904, begins at Highway 88 in Martell, continuing on to Ione.

The Amador Central Railroad was a standard gauge railroad that operated for 11.8 miles between a connection with the Southern Pacific Company at Ione and

Martell, California. The carrier served the Sierra Nevada Foothills gold mining communities and hauled lumber products from the nearby sawmills. Established in 1904 as the Ione & Eastern Railroad, the railroad survived only four years and was sold at foreclosure in 1908 and renamed the Amador Central Railroad. It was later renamed the Amador Foothills Railroad. Sierra Pacific Industries purchased the rail from another forest products company in 1997 and has allowed RRC members to use the rail for recreational purposes. Commercial use of the rail ended in June, 2004.

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The Recreational Railroad Coalition Inc. (RRC) is a Mutual Benefit Corporation, organized to preserve America's historic railroad corridors.

The Amador County Historical Society was formed for the purpose of identifying and preserving items of historical interest in Amador County for its residents and the general public, educate and increase public awareness, and enlist public support for historical preservation in Amador County.

Sierra Pacific Industries is a third-generation family-owned forest products company based in Anderson, California. The firm owns and manages nearly 1.9 million acres of timberland in California and Washington, and is the second largest lumber producer in the United States. Sierra Pacific Industries is committed to managing its lands in a responsible and sustainable manner to protect the environment while providing quality wood products and renewable power for consumers.