

Solar Steam Train project announcement

Contributed by Tim Castleman

Building on the Solar Steam Train concept, we are raising support for a demonstration project in Sacramento, California. Proposed is to use the existing rail yards to support a fireless locomotive that would be used in rotation on the tourist line in Old Sacramento .

Once again the region will lead the world in developing a system for mass transportation using simple, well proven technology to provide high quality, clean, renewable energy more efficiently than any other by taking the shortest path from the sun to the drive wheels.

Thermal solar energy collectors will be erected over portions of the site having deed restrictions for industrial use only, thus converting a toxic problem into a renewable energy production facility. This energy will be used to charge and recharge the fireless locomotive, which then has a very short distance to service on the popular tourist train.

As part of a District Energy System , the PG&E steam plant on Jibboom Street can be re-used to support not only the Solar Train - it will also provide energy security for development of the River-front & Rail-yards area.

We are approaching owners and stakeholders with this proposal. Upon approval from these, second round funding will be raised to purchase at least one fireless locomotive and for preparation of support facilities including construction of the Solar Steam Plant. With restoration of historic locomotive shops we will also be recycling a facility too long underused that at one time employed 7000 area residents and supported transportation to the entire region.