



# The Interchange

News for the Customers of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad Company  
The Transportation Gateway for the Central Coast

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## SMVRR AT NEW LOCATION!



The Santa Maria Valley Railroad has moved to the Betteravia Industrial Park, formerly the site of the Union Sugar Plant. We moved our offices to the former Union Sugar office building on September 8, 2008. As of October 1, our complete shop and yard operations completed its move to the Betteravia Industrial Park.

The 40 acre Betteravia Industrial Park presents many opportunities for us with a larger transloading facility, on ground storage, warehouses, and storage silos. With more offerings, we hope that our current and potential customers find rail service to be cost effective as we all are trying to economize in these current financial times. We also hope that you will also find shipping by rail to be efficient with quality service.

As we move forward we continue to renovate our rail line and equipment to maintain and improve our customer service to all of our freight customers. The railroad is in need of continued rehabilitation and despite the tight financial markets we are trying to continue with rebuilding the railroad. We are always looking for investors in this very capital intensive industry and if you are interested please let us know.

A great way to support the Santa Maria Railroad is to join the non profit Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad. The Friends not only preserves the historical aspects of the Santa Maria Valley

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## Service Report

### Union Pacific Railroad Tunnel Project

Union Pacific Tunnel Gang will be under cutting and surfacing tunnels on the Cuesta Grade. Eventually the Coast Line will have the capacity to transport full size double stack intermodal containers. Currently some of the tunnels are too low to accommodate full size double stack intermodal containers.



### Union Pacific Service

Outside of the unfortunately accident involving Metrolink and the UP Leesdale Local on September 15, UP's system has been operating with little service interruptions. The recent fires in the southland did not hinder rail traffic. In fact some of our customers have experienced some of the shortest transit times in years.

Union Pacific Railroad continues to provide good capacity and efficient operations. Average system velocity for the third quarter is 24 mph vs. 22 mph last year. Terminal dwell time went from over 25 hours last year to 24.4 hours, the best ever for UP.

### SMVRR Service Interruptions

The move out of the downtown rail yard facilities was a monumental job as we moved 85 years worth of material and memories out of the enginehouse facilities and yard. This tied up our work crews as we were under the gun to completely vacate the facilities by September 30.

We apologize for delays in service the last couple of months as our entire personnel including administrative people, vendors, and friends help move the railroad.

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Railroad, Friends provide volunteers for our special events and programs to educate the public on the present railroad industry.

Lastly, we invite all of our customers to stop by and visit us at our new location. We are very excited about the potential of the Betteravia Industrial Park!

Rob Himoto, President

## Betteravia Industrial Park

The 40 acre Betteravia Industrial Park has facilities for transloading, on ground storage, covered storage, and warehouses.



The Betteravia Industrial Park features a multi-spot team track, three spot dock track, and a newly built ramp track. Storage facilities include two 744,000 cubic feet food grade storage silos, a 2 million gallon petroleum grade storage tank, and 13,000 square feet of warehouse space.

If you are looking for a location directly served by rail and easy access for trucking, space is available to lease. Contact us at the SMVRR or stop by at our corporate office located at the Betteravia Industrial Park, 2820 West Betteravia Road, Santa Maria.

### Personnel Updates

We welcome Frank Veloria as our newest employee for the Santa Maria Valley Railroad Maintenance of Way Gang. Frank is a hard worker with a great attitude, a perfect fit for the Santa Maria Valley Railroad.

General Manager Dave Jennings will be phasing out of Operations and into marketing. Dave broke his ankle on Labor Day weekend and he is on a long recovery.

Dave will head our marketing department. Marketing the railroad is considered our top priority as we try to continue to grow our business and help businesses in the Santa Maria Valley and Central Coast prosper. All of you will be hearing more from Dave as he will be able to provide personalized service to all of our customers!

## SANTA CLAUS TRAIN on December 6



The Santa Maria Valley Railroad will be hosting a Santa Claus Train on Saturday December 6, 2008. Santa Claus will be on three excursions aboard the 1926 Pullman Car La Condesa with departures at 1:00 pm, 2:15 pm, and 3:30 pm. Prices are \$20.00 for adults and \$15.00 for children.

Excursions include a photo of your children with Santa Claus and hot chocolate and cookies after the excursion. Call Leah or Rob at our office for reservations as we expect these excursions to fill up!

## SHIPPING BY RAIL

### EFFICIENT

Our Nation's Freight Railroads operate over 171,000 miles of track with over 1.3 million freight cars in service.

Freight Railroads hauls 40% of our nation's freight.

### COST EFFECTIVE

Rail Freight rates have dropped 11% from 1981 to 2006, 55% in inflation adjusted terms.

Since 1980 Freight Railroads have invested hundreds of billions of dollars in their infrastructures to continue to become even more efficient and cost effective to their customers.

### ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

Freight Railroads reduce highway traffic congestion, one freight car is equivalent to three or more trucks.

## Santa Maria Valley Railroad Company

P.O. Box 5665, Santa Maria, CA 93456  
(805) 922-7941 FAX (805) 922-9554  
Website: [www.smvrr.com](http://www.smvrr.com)

Dave Jennings – Chief Operating Officer and General Manager  
email: [jennings@smvrr.com](mailto:jennings@smvrr.com)

Rob Himoto - President  
email: [rhimoto@smvrr.com](mailto:rhimoto@smvrr.com)

Leah Figaro - Controller  
email: [leahf@smvrr.com](mailto:leahf@smvrr.com)