

FEATHER RIVER RAIL SOCIETY AGENDA REPORT

DATE: November 1, 2003
FROM: Director Vicknair
ITEM: Old Business 1
SUBJECT: Current Status Magnolia Tower

Vic Neves has been discussing possible locations for Magnolia Tower in Oakland with elements of the city and port. The latest communication indicates that they are reviewing ideas near the Jack London Square depot with the city architect.

However, Kiewit is insisting that the tower be removed from the Amtrak property no later than November 15. While we may have some options to delay or work around this, we have no clear idea when or if Oakland will finalize any plans.

Either way, it has been recommended that the FRRS retain ownership of the interlocking machine in the tower and secure its movement to a storage area. Members of the South Bay Railroad Historical Society, which recently completed a fantastic restoration of the Santa Clara interlocking tower, have offered to provide logistical support for the removal and information assistance for the restoration of the Magnolia Interlocking Machine for the FRRS.

I would like to Board to consider placing two funded movement plans in place. The first will be for the removal of the machine from the tower and the designation of a boxcar at the PRM as a storage and workshop for the machine. The second will be for the disassembly and movement of the tower proper to Portola should the decision be made to do so.

Finally, the Board needs to consider whether we will give Oakland more time to complete a viable plan or commence removal of the tower.

Removal and storage of the machine is estimated to cost about \$6000.00. This is a general estimate which calls for the use of a rented crane or lift and a predominately volunteer workforce.

Disassembly and removal of the tower itself was last estimated at \$16,000.00 including the machine. With separate removal of the machine, this will likely make the disassembly easier, although we would still need a quote on this work. I would recommend an allocation of \$12,000.00 at this point. It should be noted that Coots Construction, the original firm contracted to disassemble the building, is currently behind in its repayments to us on the money paid to them. As such, it may be feasible to simply renegotiate with Coots for the work, compensating for interest owed the FRRS.

The simplest and cheapest solution would likely be removal of the machine and disassembly of the tower concurrently, however this would mean terminating talks with Oakland to retain the tower building there.

ACTION: Discussion. Possible action.

APPENDIX: Recent e-mail from city of Oakland.

From: "Rhonda Hirata" <rhonda@jacklondonsquare.net>
To: <vicneves@comcast.net>
Subject: Re: Magnolia Tower future
Date: Tue, 28 Oct 2003 09:51:18 -0800

Hello Victor,

Our architect is in receipt of the materials Vice Mayor Nadel forwarded to us. As of last week, his plans were to view the Magnolia Tower in the next few days to verify whether it is feasible to incorporate the tower into the Amtrak Station development. His concerns are the utility lines that run through the plaza which might limit the placement of the tower.

Thank you for your e-mail and voicemail messages. I will let you know his initial thoughts and will be more than happy to arrange a meeting between the two of you pending his assessment.

Sincerely,
Rhonda Hirata

The architect for the parking structure adjacent to the Amtrak station will visit the existing Magnolia Tower in the next few days. He will verify whether it is feasible to incorporate the tower into the station area development. A lot of utility lines run through the plaza which might limit the placement of the tower