



July 22, 2010

CHAMA, N.M. – The Chama area business community is pitching in to assist the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad deal with the financial consequences of last month’s trestle fire, said Elmer Salazar, president and CEO of the C&TSMC. “It’s very encouraging how the movers and shakers in the business community are stepping up to help us past this rough spot,” Salazar said.

The Friends of the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad have pledged \$20,000 to the Lobato Trestle Fund from its fundraising endowment. The Friends is the official volunteer auxiliary of the railroad, contributing money and volunteer work every year for most of the 40 years of the line’s existence.

Rio Grande Railroad Preservation Corporation the former C&TSRR operating company, was in early with a \$10,000 Contribution, conveyed to the Management CO. by Kim Smith Casford, former C&TSRR general manager.

Salazar also disclosed that Frank Simms, general manager of The Lodge at Chama, called him the day after the fire and put up \$5,000 for the project. The Lodge at Chama, base facility for Chama Land and Cattle Co., boasts some of the finest hunting and fishing areas in northern New Mexico. It is an enterprise of the Jicarilla Apache Nation, long active participants in Chama area economic development.

The Quinlan Ranch, another Chama area hunting retreat, quickly followed with a \$2,000 pledge, Salazar said. “Jerry Peters of Santa Fe, who owns this facility, is always in early to help with community needs, whether here in the Chama Valley or in his base of operations in Santa Fe.”

“The economic fortunes of the railroad and of the summer tourist season in the Chama Valley and in the Antonito, Colo., area are joined at the hip,” Salazar observed. “What’s good for them is good for us – and vice versa. Recognizing this, we have always worked together to enhance the visitors’ experience.”

“It’s an American tradition that when adversity strikes, people pull together to put it behind them,” Salazar noted. “That is what is happening in the Chama Valley with this matter.”

The line has insurance covering the trestle, with a \$50,000 deductible and a \$360,000 maximum – likely to be vastly less than the expense of repair or replacement. Persons wishing to make tax-deductible contributions to the trestle repair fund can send them to Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, Lobato Trestle Fund, 6005 Osuna Road NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109