



In 1928, the Federal Government appropriated \$165 Million for the construction of the Boulder Canyon project, soon renamed Boulder Dam and later Hoover Dam. To support the project, the Union Pacific in 1931 constructed a branch line from its San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake (1905) mainline, whose name by this time had been shortened to the Los Angeles & Salt Lake, eastward to Boulder City (this location). To directly support dam construction, the U.S. Government Construction Railroad Branch built eastward from Boulder City to the dam site, which required five tunnels to negotiate Boulder Canyon. The construction railroad grade was abandoned and is now a walking trail. UP decommissioned the portion of the line from Boulder City to Henderson in 1985 and donated the land and track to the Nevada State Railroad Museum. The museum operates an excursion train on the donated tracks under the name "Nevada Southern Railway."

The Nevada State Railroad Museum has steam on static display at Boulder City, including this 2-4-2.



More steam on display at the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Boulder City. Knowledge of the railroads history adds to the astounding construction history associated with Hoover Dam.



Eastward view of the LA&SL Boulder City Branch (1931), 3 miles west of the end-of-track at Boulder City.



Westward view of the LA&SL Boulder City Branch, same location as previous. The hills are the McCulloch Range, which the LA&SL Boulder City Branch crosses at aptly named Railroad Pass. Las Vegas and Henderson are on the other side.