

**Caltrain Centralized Equipment Maintenance and Operations Facility  
Monitoring Committee  
January 23, 2008 Minutes**

**Members Present:** Kay Gutknecht, Elizabeth Monley,  
Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio, Michael Riepe,  
Michael Smith (Chair)

**Members Absent:** Councilmember Sam Liccardo, Art Lloyd

**Staff Present:** Michelle Bouchard, Nancy McKenna, David Olmeda,  
Joe Siino

**Attendees:** Chris Escher, Sally Logothetti (Garden Alameda),  
Ben Tripousis (City of San Jose)

Chair Michael Smith called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the November 28, 2007 meeting were approved (Gutknecht/Riepe).

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**STAFF REPORT**

Nancy McKenna informed the committee that there will be Brown Act Training at the April 23 meeting.

Ben Tripousis informed the committee that the quarterly CEMOF meetings will continue to be at City Hall.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chair Smith reported that three members are terming out, Kay Gutknecht, Mike Riepe and Art Lloyd. Chair Smith thanked all three for their hard work.

Chair Smith said that he was appointed by the the Shasta Hanchett neighborhood association to be their representative and Sally Logothetti was appointed to be the Garden Alameda neighborhood representative.

Chair Smith said that the sub-committee of Mr. Riepe, Ms. Gutknecht and himself will be compiling the quarterly report for the fourth quarter.

Chair Smith said that the Shasta-Hanchett neighborhood association is having their annual meeting this Saturday and would like the committee to have a booth to discuss the CEMOF project. Ms. Gutknecht asked about the model being available and any other material. Staff said that the model would not be possible and there is no written material available. There is no material left from the CEMOF open house.

### **COMMITTEE REPORT**

Nothing

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Construction Status – Joe Siino reported the storage tanks are completely full and that staff is just closing out a few items. Mr. Siino said this will be his last meeting as there is nothing else to report on construction.
  
- b. Operation Schedule/Transition Status – Michelle Bouchard said the operation schedule has remained the same since the start of service at CEMOF. On March 3 the public timetable will change and there will be two additional trains in the evening and this should not have any effect on the operation at CEMOF. Ms. Bouchard will keep Chair Smith apprised if there are any changes. After the last meeting all the maintenance employees had transitioned to the facility. Chair Smith said that something was still at San Francisco as of last meeting. David Olmeda said that the last of the day shift employees were working out of San Francisco. Mr. Olmeda said that Amtrak has limited resources and there were some changes in allocation of personnel due to new functions at CEMOF. All personnel that are going to transition to CEMOF are there, but there are some vacancies that will be filled and this should have no adverse impact to the neighborhood. Ms. Bouchard said that a committee tour could occur depending on the Brown Act. Chair Smith asked what the best time is to do this tour. Ms. Bouchard said at night time tour there is a lot of movement in the yard and would be a very contained experience. Ms. Gutknecht asked if the committee could experience the trainwash, bell ringing and the screeching during the day. The committee has decided it would be best to do the tour during the day. Mr. Olmeda said all activities will be experienced during the day. Any train movement will give the committee the experience of the bell ringing. Mr. Olmeda said that all people visiting the facility need follow safety rules, i.e. shoes and hard hat would be distributed. Chair Smith asked if there is reduced activity on the weekend. Mr. Olmeda said yes there is because the service is different on the weekends compared to the weekday.
  
- d. Screeching Tracks/Lubricator Maintenance – Ms. Bouchard reported that she has an all day meeting with Union Pacific tomorrow. Ms. Gutknecht said at the last meeting it was discussed there was a different lubricator that was going to be used. Ms. Bouchard said this has not happened and this will be discussed tomorrow. Ms. Gutknecht asked Elizabeth Monley if she hears the screeching in the College Park area and Ms. Monley confirmed she does. Ms. Gutknecht said

that Caltrain insists this is not their problem and she feels it is because the tracks were moved.

Ms. Monley asked where Caltrain is on this and Ms. Gutknecht said that Caltrain gave UP the greaser to install and sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't.

- e. Revised Bylaws – Councilmember Oliverio said that the City Attorney is still stuck on the legal issue of alternates. Chair Smith asked that the issue of alternates for the City, JPB and VTA be dropped.
- f. Scheduled Maintenance and Daily Inspections at Night – Ms. Gutknecht said this is difficult to monitor now since there is a storm outside and people are stuck in their house. She is still hearing a large amount of engine rev-up. Chair Smith asked why engines are revving up at 9 p.m. at night. Mr. Olmeda said that at night when the trains switch ends there is a mass noise. Mr. Olmeda said he is assuming this is not going on every night. Ms. Gutknecht said that her windows are closed and doesn't hear it. Mr. Olmeda said that revving up at night is loud and with the quiet of the night the sound does travel. When a locomotive is tested in the service and inspection (S&I) track the mechanics have to make sure that both ends can load. The engine has to be tested to make sure that it can load and this is not a long or prolonged test and this would not create the type of noise that Ms. Gutknecht is complaining about. Ms. Gutknecht asked about the detail that was reported on the hotline or through the Web. Ms. Bouchard said this needs to be deferred to Jonah Weinberg and with this information Ms. Gutknecht said that times should be noted and then it could be tracked. Ms. Gutknecht said that this report should be included with the agenda and should be put on the agenda for discussion and looking at trends.
- g. Train Wash Operation at Night – Ms. Gutknecht is concerned that when the trains go through the train wash the bell ringing is very extensive. The train washer is not the issue, but the bell ringing when the trains are moving through the washer is the issue. Ms. Monley will ask neighbors closer to Taylor if they hear any noise. Committee asked if a wall could be constructed north of the trainwash. Mr. Siino said that this is not possible. Ms. Bouchard said there is some ability to work with the mechanical department to minimize the bell ringing when going through the yard. Ms. Gutknecht feels there needs to be a study on the wall and the activity behind it as she feels facility activity goes significantly past the wall. Chair Smith asked if staff could look at constructing a longer/larger wall. Mr. Olmeda said the wall will not mitigate any noise from the bell ringing and the best effort would be to work with the contractor to minimize the noise and this works best with our shared objectives. Mr. Olmeda said that even if a wall was to be constructed the bell ringing noise will still occur. Ms. Gutknecht said once the train goes behind wall the bell ringing is minimized. Mr. Olmeda said there is work to be done with the Amtrak crew on educating them on the bell ringing.

- h. Overnight Storage of Early Morning Trains – The committee feels this item will be marked as closed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Smith reported that he will be moving from the at-large member to the Shasta Hanchett representative as of April 1.

- a. New At-Large Member - The committee is recommending Mr. Escher to be the at-large member. Mr. Escher's recommendation was approved by the entire committee.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 23 at 6 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Remaining meeting dates for 2008 – July 23 and October 22