



JPB Board of Directors
Meeting of January 7, 2021

Correspondence as of December 30, 2020

Subject

- 1 University Ave Beige Pole Color
- 2 City of East Palo Alto Newsletter

From: [Martin J Sommer](mailto:Martin.J.Sommer@caltrain.com)
To: CalMod@caltrain.com
Cc: [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](mailto:Board (@caltrain.com)); city.council@cityofpaloalto.org; [Pat Burt](#)
Subject: Re: University Ave Beige Pole Color
Date: Tuesday, December 22, 2020 7:49:57 PM

**ATTENTION: This email came from an external source.
Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders.**

+cc: Pat Bert

Brent, please take a look at the attached photo. I don't think this is what the City, nor the design engineers, had in mind.

Please tell me, how I can help correct this situation.

Thank you,
Martin

On 11/25/20 10:05 AM, martin@sommer.net wrote:

Hi Brent,

Perhaps your new funding source obtained on Nov 3rd can help this situation. Can you please look into this, and let me know? The visual impacts you are creating, are not good.

Thank you,

Martin

--

Martin Sommer
650-346-5307
martin@sommer.net
<http://www.linkedin.com/in/martinsommer>

"Turn technical vision into reality."

On 2020-11-25 09:50, CalMod@caltrain.com wrote:

Hi Martin,

Unfortunately, the project budget does not accommodate camouflaging of the poles. Caltrain worked with Cities and regulatory agencies to mitigate the impacts of the infrastructure through the Project's [Environmental Impact Report](#) in 2014.

Thanks,

Brent Tietjen, Government and Community Relations Officer

SamTrans | Caltrain | TA
1250 San Carlos Ave.
San Carlos, CA 94070-1306
tietjenb@samtrans.com

From: martin@sommer.net [mailto:martin@sommer.net]

Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 1:55 PM

To: CalMod@caltrain.com

Cc: Board (@caltrain.com) <BoardCaltrain@samtrans.com>;
city.council@cityofpaloalto.org

Subject: Re: University Ave Beige Pole Color

Thanks Brent,

What about the idea of camouflaging the upper part of the poles, similar to what is done with cell towers? For some reason, these poles have been created with an extremely hard industrial look. This is nothing like, the esthetics put into other electrified rails systems throughout the world.

Martin

--

Martin Sommer
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martin@sommer.net
<http://www.linkedin.com/in/martinsommer>

"Turn technical vision into reality."

On 2020-11-13 10:09, CalMod@caltrain.com wrote:

||

Hi Martin,

Thank you again for contacting Caltrain on this question. As Jim previously mentioned, the selection of the pole color was done in coordination with the City of Palo Alto and the Historic Resources Board and Architectural Review Board in 2019. These color selections are final and poles cannot be replaced or painted a different color after installation.

Thanks,

Brent Tietjen, Government and Community Relations Officer

SamTrans | Caltrain | TA
1250 San Carlos Ave.
San Carlos, CA 94070-1306

tietjenb@samtrans.com

From: martin@sommer.net [<mailto:martin@sommer.net>]

Sent: Friday, November 6, 2020 10:20 AM

To: CalMod@caltrain.com; Board (@caltrain.com) <BoardCaltrain@samtrans.com>

Cc: city.council@cityofpaloalto.org

Subject: Re: University Ave Beige Pole Color

Dear Caltrain Board,

The more beige poles that go up at University Ave station, the more unsightly it becomes. At ground level, you might think the beige color matches the station, but from the view of local buildings, you are completely destroying the view of our Santa Cruz Mountains, and local green vegetation on Stanford campus.

Can you please look into a way to fix this? Perhaps, painting any height above 10 feet, to be the standard forest green? Telecom poles can be camouflaged, the same applies here.

Please look in to it, and let me know some options.

Thank you,
Martin

--

Martin Sommer
650-346-5307
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<http://www.linkedin.com/in/martinsommer>

"Turn technical vision into reality."

On 2020-09-30 12:05, calmod@caltrain.com wrote:

Dear Martin,

Thank you for contacting Caltrain Electrification. The selection of the beige color was done in coordination with the City of Palo Alto and is a common color for poles located near stations. Most poles are a neutral chrome color along the project area but in some cases, such as near stations, Caltrain staff worked with local cities to identify pole colors that aligned with certain station areas. Once the poles have been procured and placed, we are not able to change the colors of those poles.

Thank you again for reaching out to us.

Best,

The Caltrain Team

On 2020-09-25T10:17:50-07:00, Martin J Sommer
<martin@sommer.net> wrote:

Good morning,

Please see the attached picture, of a beige pole placed last night.

This creates a real eye sore!!

Questions: 1) Why are you using a beige color vs the std forest

green (that blends with the trees), and 2) can these beige poles please be painted forest green, before electrification occurs?

I know that this is a "big ask".

Thank you,

Martin

--

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CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO

December 24, 2020 City Update - Actualización



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The City Council, the City Manager, and staff wish you joy and peace as we celebrate the holiday season and close out 2020. It has been a unique time and we are grateful to serve this wonderful community. We hope that 2021 brings

you good health, happiness, and prosperity.

El Concejo Municipal, el Administrador Municipal y el personal de la ciudad les desean alegría y paz mientras celebramos la temporada festiva y cerramos 2020. Ha sido un tiempo único y estamos agradecidos de servir a esta maravillosa comunidad. Esperamos que el 2021 les traiga buena salud, felicidad y prosperidad.

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