



JPB Board of Directors
Meeting of January 9, 2020

Correspondence as of December 6, 2019

Subject

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- 2 Pets on Train
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JACKIE SPEIER
14TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0514

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CHAIRWOMAN, MILITARY PERSONNEL
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AND REFORM
SUBCOMMITTEES:
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
ENVIRONMENT
Co-Chair, Democratic Women's Caucus
Senior Whip

December 2, 2019

Board of Directors
Caltrain Joint Powers Board
P.O. Box 3006
San Carlos, CA 94070

Dear Board of Directors:

It has come to my attention that Caltrain is developing, or considering the development of, several largely market-rate housing developments at its stations. Generally speaking, I believe that public lands should be used to create as much affordable housing as possible given all constraints on the agency.

I am writing to ask that the Board consider ways in which Caltrain's financial goals can be met while also significantly including housing for low income residents. I acknowledge that, unlike other public agencies with under-utilized property, Caltrain has no dedicated source of revenue. As a consequence, the agency has a duty to passengers and to the three partner agencies to develop properties with the possibility of earning revenue and to reduce the impact of Caltrain operations on other public transit operations across three counties.

I hope that Caltrain will seriously consider partnering with other public agencies to determine if their needs can be met at Caltrain stations, including workforce housing for public safety personnel, educators, after school employees, etc. It would appear that all three counties have the chance to be good partners over the long-term, with government employees and the general population able to provide enough revenue so as to create an economically integrated development that maximizes deeply affordable housing to the degree possible given all appropriate constraints.

At least some of the value created by housing at Caltrain stations, and captured by private developers both at stations and within walking distance, is due to the nearly \$1 billion of federal funding, from all program sources, that is going into the Caltrain modernization program. This public investment, however, is also likely to spur greater demand for housing near the rail line, thus forcing up rents if there are not countervailing initiatives. I want to acknowledge the record that several Board members have, in positions of elective office, in approving affordable housing

housing near the line so as to help temper increases in rent and to create ownership housing. Ultimately, these votes to build more housing are highly impactful and beneficial.

However, I respectfully suggest that before another for-profit developer is secured to deal with a potential housing site on Caltrain property, that the Board attempt to establish a “public-agency/nonprofit-first” policy in which a collaboration is sought across many jurisdictions, and potentially with nonprofits, to determine if a joint development is possible. For example, a concentration of police officers located in one or two communities along the rail line could serve every agency from San Francisco through to San Jose. Such a development might also, via cross-subsidy and housing vouchers, include a large component of very-low-income households that would create a vibrant community for everyone concerned.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this issue. I know that the Board and staff have multiple demands on its attention. I look forward to learning what initiatives might be enacted once all community concerns are weighed by the Board of Directors.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jackie Speier', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Jackie Speier

KJS/bp

of the United States
e of Representatives
ngton, DC 20515-0514

SAN FRANCISCO
CA 940
03 DEC '19
PM 3 L

Julie Spier
M.C.

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Board of Directors
Caltrain Joint Powers Board
P.O. Box 3006
San Carlos, CA 94070



94070-130606



From: [Rios, Rona](#)
To: jrodhard@yahoo.com
Cc: [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](#)
Subject: Pets on Trains Complaint
Date: Thursday, December 5, 2019 2:25:07 PM

Dear Mr. Harden:

Thank you taking the time to email to the Board of Directors to discuss your experience on Caltrain. They will receive a copy of our correspondence.

First, I appreciate you taking the time to speak with me on November 21st and I sincerely apologize that you had a bad experience on the train. You explained that another customer brought a dog on the train and that you believe it is not a service animal. You also mentioned that you approached the rider and he indicated it is a support animal, however, as we discussed it is not specifically clear (perhaps for personal reasons) if it is in support of a diagnosis, or for use as a service animal. You also shared with me that you are allergic to dogs and are fearful, and I am thankful that you expressed these concerns.

Please know that we have reminded the Conductors of our service animal policy. I verified that they are allowed to ask if the animal is a service animal. We also asked train management to remind conductors not to feed or interfere with service animals. Additionally, the Caltrain service animal policy has been updated to reflect new requirements. Service animals are no longer required to be on a leash, but are required to be under the control of the handler.

In the future, if you have concerns about the behavior of an animal on the train, please speak to a Conductor. We take your concerns very seriously and want your travels to be pleasant. Again, thank you for bringing this concern to our attention. If you have further comments, please call the our Customer Service Center at 1-800-660-4287 or reach out to me directly at my number below.

Best Regards,

Rona Rios

Director, Customer Experience

Caltrain

650-508-6239

From: Jarrod Harden <jrodhard@yahoo.com>

> Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 6:48 PM

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

> Subject: Pets on Trains-Again

>

> I have spoken to your staff again. I have been told again that I have no rights. That the person with the dog can be on the train and I essentially have to sit elsewhere to avoid the animal. I will say again, if this was ACTUALLY a service animal, you would not be hearing from me. It is NOT a service animal. I asked him and HE said it was a comfort animal.

>

> You need to address this situation. I will continue to complain and chronicle this until you actually do something.

>

> First, the ADA does not acknowledge or protect comfort animals. According to the ADA, two questions may be asked of an individual with an animal:

>

- > 1. Is this a service animal?
- > 2. What service does the animal provide?
- >
- > I know your staff has never asked this person either of these questions (or anyone else for that matter). They are too busy giving the dogs treats to ask anything else.
- >
- > There is no place I can be on the train where I am guaranteed to not be faced with a dog. Your lack of action is opening the door for considerable trouble. You need to address this situation. Your own policy only mentions service animals, so this and any comfort animal or pet should not be allowed on the train.
- >
- > Please update your policy to address this situation. If you aren't going to enforce, then abolish your animal policy and see what happens when you do. I should also ask, why have a policy if you have no intention of actually enforcing it.
- >
- > Please see attached picture. Per your policy, the dog must be controlled by the owner. How is the animal controlled by this person? Both hands and eyes on his device. Feet up which would allow the dog to dart away. Headphones on. No contact with the leash. He doesn't see the dog, he is not holding the leash and cannot hear it. How is that animal controlled?
- >
- > Please address this situation. My comfort is equally as important as this person with the animal. I will not stop until you do or you drive me off the train because there is no where safe for me to be.

From: [Adina Levin](#)
To: [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](#)
Cc: [Charles Stone](#); [Brinkman, Cheryl \[cheryl.brinkman@gmail.com\]](#); [Chavez, Cindy \[cindy.chavez@bos.sccgov.org\]](#); [Hartnett, Jim](#); [Bouchard, Michelle](#); [Mau, Carter](#)
Subject: Re: WPLP meeting - Caltrain land use inventory
Date: Friday, December 6, 2019 6:20:28 AM

Thank you.

- Adina

On Thu, Dec 5, 2019 at 2:34 PM Board (@[caltrain.com](#)) <[BoardCaltrain@samtrans.com](#)> wrote:

Hello – the agenda and material for the 11/26/2019 WPLP) Committee meeting has been available online on the Caltrain website at
http://www.caltrain.com/about/bod/Board_of_Directors_Meeting_Calendar.html

The specific link is [here](#)

Thank you,

Dora

From: Adina Levin <adina.levin@friendsofcaltrain.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2019 11:44 AM
To: Board (@[caltrain.com](#)) <[BoardCaltrain@samtrans.com](#)>; Charles Stone <cstone757@gmail.com>; Brinkman, Cheryl [cheryl.brinkman@gmail.com] <cheryl.brinkman@gmail.com>; Chavez, Cindy [cindy.chavez@bos.sccgov.org] <cindy.chavez@bos.sccgov.org>
Subject: WPLP meeting - Caltrain land use inventory

Dear Caltrain Board Clerk,

At today's board meeting, there was a report from the Work Program – Legislative – Planning (WPLP) committee. Board Member Brinkman mentioned that there was material shown with information about the inventory of land that Caltrain owns and what land is needed for rail purposes and what might be needed for other uses.

This material is not yet posted on the website. Can that information please be posted?

Thank you,

- Adina

Adina Levin

Friends of Caltrain

<https://greencaltrain.com>

650-646-4344