



JPB Board of Directors  
Meeting of March 2, 2023

Correspondence as of March 1, 2023

# Subject

- 1 Caltrain Website Electrification Information
- 2 Salinas Extension MOU (6d) Feedback

**From:** Steve Owens <[strayowens@gmail.com](mailto:strayowens@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 26, 2023 9:09 PM  
**To:** Board (@caltrain.com) <[board@caltrain.com](mailto:board@caltrain.com)>  
**Subject:** Caltrain Electrification Information on Caltrain website

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Dear CalTrain Board Members,

I am writing to inform the Board that the Caltrain website contains rather dated information about electrification project construction and to request that this critical, public facing resource be updated and kept current throughout the electrification project lifecycle.

<<https://www.caltrain.com/projects/electrification/construction>>

This electrification construction page intends to inform visitors about the status of construction through a construction map and weekly updates on electrification related construction activities. While the construction activities section of the page is up to date, the construction map displaying progress is noted to be updated October 11 of 2022. It seems considerably behind even that date - I recollect observing construction to be more advanced than noted in the figure during my rides last year.

<<https://www.caltrain.com/electrification-document-library>>

This page contains links to critical project documentation, including PCEP Monthly Progress Reports and PCEP Quarterly Presentations. Links to monthly project reports exist from July 2016 through July 2022. Links to PCEP Quarterly Presentations are available from Q2 FY 2015 through Q2 FY2020. I request the Board direct the document library to be updated with links to all of the reports generated through the current day and to continue updating this page with links to these documents through project close out.

It is critical that Caltrain keep the public informed about construction activities and progress. While social media or email subscription can serve this function, Caltrain's website should also provide this resource in the event an individual wants to reference activities after email distribution and/or if social media accounts should become unavailable.

The electrification project is the most expensive and most important project that Caltrain has ever undertaken. The public is deserving of timely information about construction activities, project status, and project risk. While it might be possible for the public to mine this information from Board Agendas other places on Caltrain's website I encourage the Board to commit resources and make this information readily available.

Thank you for your attention.

Stephen Owens

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Best regards,

Steve

**From:** Tietjen, Brent <TietjenB@caltrain.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2023 1:54 PM

**To:** strayowens@gmail.com

**Cc:** Board (@caltrain.com) <BoardCaltrain@samtrans.com>

**Subject:** RE: FYI FW: Caltrain Electrification Information on Caltrain website

Hi Stephen,

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. We understand that it is essential to keep the public informed about the construction activities and progress of the electrification project. I have updated the information displaying progress on the electrification construction page and have updated the PCEP Monthly Progress Reports. I am working with our team to ensure all project Board presentations are current as well. We will continue to update these pages on a more frequent basis going forward.

Thank you again for your feedback, and please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any further questions or comments.

Best,

Brent Tietjen

[tietjenb@caltrain.com](mailto:tietjenb@caltrain.com)

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**From:** Steve Owens <strayowens@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2023 5:46 PM

**To:** Tietjen, Brent <TietjenB@caltrain.com>

**Cc:** Board (@caltrain.com) <BoardCaltrain@samtrans.com>

**Subject:** Re: FYI FW: Caltrain Electrification Information on Caltrain website

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Hi Brent,

Thank you for your response. I appreciate the speed with which you updated the website with electrification construction status and populated the monthly and quarterly reports.

I'm excited by the progress displayed in the update - I suggest your social media manager share this content as I know many riders would be delighted to see this.

@Board - my appreciation to Brent and to you. Thanks for your efforts

Best regards,

Steve

**From:** Mayor Marie Blankley  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 26, 2023 3:15 PM  
**To:** [publiccomment@caltrain.com](mailto:publiccomment@caltrain.com) <[publiccomment@caltrain.com](mailto:publiccomment@caltrain.com)>; [board@caltrain.com](mailto:board@caltrain.com) <[board@caltrain.com](mailto:board@caltrain.com)>  
**Subject:** 3/2/23 Agenda item 6. d.

Board members:

I request that you pull agenda item 6.d. from consent and add language to the MOU authorization that ensures that future service to Salinas will not come before expanded service to Gilroy. Currently, the Salinas Extension Feasibility Study (April 2020) reads, "Future service to Salinas must not result in any changes to the operation of CalTrain mainline service nor cause any negative impacts [to mainline service]." I am asking that "negative impacts" to mainline service necessarily include the 4<sup>th</sup> train that has been promised to Gilroy and Morgan Hill for years. It is not enough to say that committing CalTrain resources to this MOU with TAMC won't jeopardize *existing* mainline service when every city on that mainline EXCEPT Gilroy and Morgan Hill already has more than 3 existing trains. Please add a condition of approval to this MOU authorization that expressly states that CalTrain will not begin train service to Salinas before expanded service to a minimum of 4 trains is delivered to Gilroy.

Thank you to Strategy and Policy Director Sam Sargent for diligently keeping myself and Gilroy staff aware of the progress of this agenda item as it reached the Board.

Respectfully,

Marie Blankley, CPA  
Mayor, City of Gilroy

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**From:** Sargent, Sam <[SargentS@caltrain.com](mailto:SargentS@caltrain.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 1, 2023 6:53:29 AM  
**To:** Mayor Marie Blankley <[Marie.Blankley@ci.gilroy.ca.us](mailto:Marie.Blankley@ci.gilroy.ca.us)>  
**Cc:** Seamans, Dora <[SeamansD@samtrans.com](mailto:SeamansD@samtrans.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: 3/2/23 Agenda item 6. d.

Mayor Blankley,

In response to the comment you submitted regarding JPB Agenda Item 6.D, Caltrain staff would like to make clear that expanded service to Gilroy is separate from a potential Salinas extension. The only circumstance under which there is TAMC and state-funded service to Salinas is by extending an existing Gilroy train. The potential Salinas extension will not distract from expanded service to South County.

The JPB-TAMC MOU memorializes important principles of cost-neutrality and no impact to mainline service between San Francisco and Gilroy. Approval of the MOU by the JPB will not adversely impact future expanded service to Gilroy, which is planned for FY2025.

Caltrain looks forward our continued work together on South County service. Thank you.

Sam Sargent

**Sam Sargent**

Director, Strategy and Policy

Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board

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