



JPB Board of Directors
Meeting of November 2, 2023

Correspondence as of October 20, 2023

<u>#</u>	<u>Subject</u>
1	From Estimates to Reality - Understanding the Changing Costs of a Mega Infrastructure Project
2	Join us for a Community Field Trip at the Milpitas Transit Center on Oct 21!
3	JPB Letter of Adjournment for Dianne Feinstein sent out 10-16-2023
4	Notice of Geotechnical Work in Downtown San José
5	RE_ DTX O&M cost breakdown
6	RE_ Urgent Concern Regarding Unprofessional Conduct on Train L3 #313 Northbound on 09_21_2023
7	RE: [NORTENOS]: cloverleaf, Cottle area and Great Oaks

From: VTA BART Phase II <vtabart@vtabsv.com>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 3:00 PM
To: Board (@caltrain.com)
Subject: From Estimates to Reality: Understanding the Changing Costs of a Mega Infrastructure Project

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From Estimates to Reality: Understanding the Changing Costs of a Mega Infrastructure Project

VTA has been the lead agency responsible for the design, contracting, construction, and successful delivery of transit, mobility, and roadway transportation construction projects since 1976. This equals a total construction value of more than \$6 billion dollars. The types of projects delivered include toll systems, heavy and light rail systems and extensions, bus and bus rapid transit, highway, grade separations, pedestrian, and bicycle improvements. To learn more about

the changing costs of infrastructure projects, check out our [latest blog, From Estimates to Reality: Understanding the Changing Costs of a Mega Infrastructure Project.](#)

Project Background

VTA's BART Silicon Valley Phase II Extension (Phase II Project) is a six-mile, four-station extension of BART from Berryessa / North San José Station (opened 2020) through downtown San José to the City of Santa Clara. The Phase II Project is planned to include an approx. five-mile subway, three stations with underground platforms (28th Street/ Little Portugal, Downtown San José, and Diridon), one ground-level station (Santa Clara), a train maintenance and storage facility, and additional facilities.

Have a question for us about Phase II?

Visit www.vta.org/bart or email us vtabart@vtabsv.com



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From: Community.Outreach <community.outreach@vta.org>
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2023 3:59 PM
To: Board (@caltrain.com)
Subject: Join us for a Community Field Trip at the Milpitas Transit Center on 10/21!

You don't often get email from community.outreach@vta.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

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See the Results of Long-Range Planning with VTP 2050 Community Field Trip

Explore Milpitas Transit Center with VTA on **Saturday, October 21 from 10 – 11 a.m.** This event will provide a chance for the community to see how transit infrastructure, bike, and pedestrian infrastructure identified in our long range planning efforts have been combined in developing our Milpitas Transit Center.

Event Reminders: If you have already registered for the event, please review the map below.

- Milpitas Transit Center is served by VTA routes 20, 44, 47, 60, 70, 71, and 77, as well as the VTA Light Rail orange line.
- For those who choose to drive, event parking at the surface lot is free during the duration of the event. The meeting point is located across the surface parking lot adjacent to the parking lot structure.
- The field trip will start promptly at 10 a.m. Please plan to arrive early.

RSVP Now



VTP 2050 Virtual Community Meeting

Are you unable to attend the VTP 2050 Field Trip? You can still engage with the development of the VTP 2050 with the VTP 2050 Virtual Community Meeting on **Wednesday, November 15 from 6 - 7:30 p.m.** The meeting will discuss the vision for the transportation plan, share the expected projects to be included in the final document and provide the community an opportunity to give feedback on additional VTA projects and programs.

RSVP Now

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October 16, 2023

Office of Senator Dianne Feinstein
1 Post Street, #2450
San Francisco, CA 94104

Dear Feinstein Family,

At the October 5th Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers (Caltrain) meeting, the Board of Directors adjourned in the memory and honor of the late Senator Dianne Feinstein.

Senator Feinstein was a memorable woman who was loved and appreciated by all for what she brought to California, Senator Dianne Feinstein was a stalwart champion of rail safety in California and throughout the nation. After the Chatsworth disaster in Southern California, Senator Feinstein spearheaded legislation that led to the nationwide adoption of positive train control safety technology which prevents train-to-train collisions, over-speed derailments, and other dangers. This technology is now fully operational on Caltrain's corridor, further protecting our riders and communities.

Moreover, Senator Feinstein was an ardent supporter of Caltrain's Electrification Project, working to ensure full funding for the project including securing \$10 million in dedicated federal funds just last year. The Senator also supported the effort to reimagine Caltrain's San Jose Diridon Station, transforming it into a cutting-edge multimodal hub befitting of one of America's largest cities.

Her impact on American railroads and specifically the impact on the first electric commuter rail in the American West will be felt for generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Gee", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Jeff Gee
Chair, Caltrain Board of Directors

SAN MATEO COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT
1250 San Carlos Ave. - P.O. Box 3006
San Carlos, CA 94070-1306 (650) 508-6200

From: VTA <vtabart@vtabsv.com>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 4:00 PM
To: Board (@caltrain.com)
Subject: Notice of Geotechnical Work in Downtown San José 10/30 - 11/17

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What

- Contractors will be collecting soil samples and installing groundwater monitoring instruments around the future Downtown San José Station.

Where

- The work will take place along West Santa Clara Street between North First and Third Streets.



When*

- Work will be conducted as early as Monday, October 30 - Friday, November 17
- General working hours will be 9:00AM-3:30 PM.

* Please note that timelines for construction activity have some inherent uncertainty and may change depending on field conditions and/or inclement weather.

What To Expect

- The work activity will be advanced with a truck-mounted, mud rotary drill rig.
- There will also be periodic, repetitive hammering during soil sampling.
- This work activity does not typically generate dust.
- Partial parking will be impacted by this work.

****All work has received necessary approvals and permits. Construction is a dynamic process and information is subject to change without notice.***

Why

This work is necessary to help prepare for VTA's BART Silicon Valley Phase II Project.

Have a question for us about Phase II?

Visit www.vta.org/bart or email us vtabart@vtabsv.com



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1) A breakdown of the following DTX O&M cost elements:

- *Traincrews, Supervisors, Expenses, Operations and Dispatch Management, Administration, Safety, Finance, Timetables and Tickets, and Security* **\$6.9M**
- *Rolling Stock (Diesel and EMU) Maintenance, Fuel, Lubricants, and Utilities* **\$5.5M**
- *Stations, Track, OCS/TPS, Equipment Maintenance, and Spare Parts* **\$23.4M**
- *Wages and Benefits* **\$2.3M**

2) **The source of your information.**

Thank you in advance for your prompt response to this request.

CC

TJPA Board of Directors
Caltrain Board of Directors
SFCTA Commissioners
DTX Executive Steering Committee
TJPA CAC
Caltrain CAC
SFCTA CAC

From: Roland Lebrun
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 10:56 PM
To: Caltrain Public Records <pra@caltrain.com>
Subject: DTX O&M cost breakdown

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please refer to the attached slide and provide a breakdown of the following DTX O&M cost elements pursuant to Government Code 6250 et seq.

- *Traincrews, Supervisors, Expenses, Operations and Dispatch Management, Administration, Safety, Finance, Timetables and Tickets, and Security* \$6.9M
- *Rolling Stock (Diesel and EMU) Maintenance, Fuel, Lubricants, and Utilities* \$5.5M
- *Stations, Track, OCS/TPS, Equipment Maintenance, and Spare Parts* \$23.4M
- *Wages and Benefits* \$2.3M

Thank you in advance for your prompt response to this request.

Roland Lebrun

From: [Sarah Nabong](#)
To: [Shakthi Kumaran Ramasamy](#); [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](#)
Subject: RE: Urgent Concern Regarding Unprofessional Conduct on Train L3 #313 Northbound on 09/21/2023
Date: Friday, October 20, 2023 11:12:36 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Deare Shakthi Ramasamy,

Your email to the Caltrain Board of Directors has been forwarded to me for response. They will receive a copy of this email.

Thank you for contacting Caltrain, though we regret to hear it was due to issues with our service. We sincerely apologize for the poor experience. Know that your report concerning this conductor you encountered while taking Train 313 was forwarded to the proper parties for review. This includes our Claims Administrator and our Title VI Officer, as you noted you felt this conductor's actions were discriminatory.

Rest assured, Caltrain will take the necessary steps to ensure we continue to provide our riders with safe, reliable service without regards to race, nationality, or color. However, in addition to your report, our Title VI Officer instructed that you also be provided a Title VI Discrimination Complaint Form. You can find information about Title VI and the complaint form here: <https://www.caltrain.com/rider-information/title-vi>.

Again, we apologize for the trouble, and we thank you for taking the time to reach out to us about this issue. We look forward to providing you with a better transit experience going forward.

Kind regards,

Sarah Nabong, Customer Service Representative 2

1250 San Carlos Ave San Carlos, CA 94070

Phone: 800.660.4287

Websites: [Caltrain](#) | [SamTrans](#) | [TA](#)



From: Shakthi Kumaran Ramasamy <shakthi@stanford.edu>

Sent: Friday, September 22, 2023 4:09 PM

To: Board (@caltrain.com) <board@caltrain.com>

Subject: Urgent Concern Regarding Unprofessional Conduct on Train L3 #313 Northbound on 09/21/2023

Importance: High

You don't often get email from shakthi@stanford.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Board of Directors of Caltrain,

I am writing to bring to your attention a deeply distressing incident we experienced on September 21, 2023, aboard the L3 #313 Northbound train, which stopped at Palo Alto at 6:54 PM. As a regular and loyal Caltrain rider, I never anticipated facing such a situation on one of your trains.

Yesterday evening, my partner visited me at work from SF and tagged on her clipper card at the San Francisco 4th and King Street Caltrain station. She is not a regular Caltrain rider and forgot to tag off at the Palo Alto Caltrain station immediately upon disembarking. Later, when we returned to the Palo Alto Caltrain station, she first tagged off on the Southbound platform for the previous ride and then tagged on again on the Northbound platform for our return journey. However, there was an error with the tagging machine on the Northbound platform she used, and when checked by the onboard conductors, her card showed it was not tagged on, despite having a sufficient balance.

Both of us were confronted and threatened by conductors Kathleen and Michael, who insisted that we disembark the train. Kathleen not only threatened to call the police on us but, after we complied and disembarked, she waved goodbye and took off, leaving us stranded in the cold at Belmont station, waiting for the next Caltrain. Due to this prolonged exposure to the cold, my partner fell ill last night. This aggressive and discriminatory behavior is deeply concerning and suggests a potential lapse in the training or oversight of Caltrain staff. I can provide evidence to confirm that I had a valid train ticket and that I was unjustly forced off the train due to the inappropriate actions of your employees.

I urge the Board to treat this matter with the seriousness it deserves and to ensure that such incidents do not recur. Passengers should feel safe and respected when using Caltrain services, and the behavior we experienced is a stark deviation from the standards one would expect from a reputable transportation service.

I look forward to your prompt attention to this matter and hope for a thorough investigation and appropriate action.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Shakthi

From: [Sarah Nabong](#)
To: [Dhanya Rajan](#); [Anthony](#); [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](#)
Cc: [Jimenez, Sergio](#); [Matt Mahan](#); [Mila Heally](#); [Elvera Faria](#)
Subject: RE: [NORTENOS]: cloverleaf, Cottle area and Great Oaks
Date: Friday, October 20, 2023 2:24:04 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Dear Dhanya Rajan,

Your email to the Caltrain Board of Directors has been forwarded to me for response. They will receive a copy of this email.

Thank you again for reaching out to Caltrain with your observations. We provided your feedback to our Right of Way team along with our Transit Police for their attention. This area mentioned is handled by your local jurisdiction. Union Pacific Railroad owns the tracks beyond our Tamien Station in San Jose, we suggest reaching out to Union Pacific Police Department to further address your concerns.

Best Regards,

Sarah Nabong, Customer Service Representative 2

1250 San Carlos Ave San Carlos, CA 94070

Phone: 800.660.4287

Websites: [Caltrain](#) | [SamTrans](#) | [TA](#)



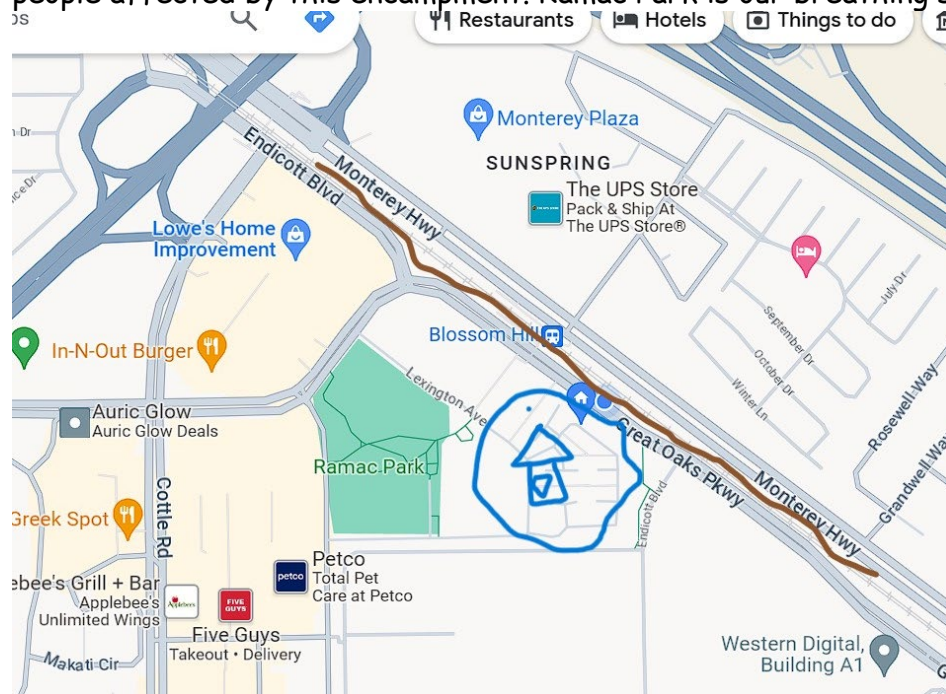
From: Dhanya Rajan <rajan.dhanya@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 6:26 AM
To: Anthony <Anthony.mata@sanjoseca.gov>; Board (@caltrain.com) <board@caltrain.com>
Cc: Jimenez, Sergio <sergio.jimenez@sanjoseca.gov>; Matt Mahan <district10@sanjoseca.gov>; Mila Heally <heallym@gmail.com>; Elvera Faria <veggirl70@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: [NORTENOS]: cloverleaf, Cottle area and Great Oaks

You don't often get email from rajan.dhanya@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi Chief Mata,

I am a homeowner at Station 121 townhomes living opposite the giant encampment on Great Oaks Pkwy. We see a lot of criminal activities after the surge in tents in early June. We have 22+ tents now. Our location map is below. I am trying my best to explain the gravity of the situation. The tents are spread across a 0.5 mile length on Great Oaks side by the Blossom Hill Caltrain fence (ripped by the homeless in many areas). I have circled the high-density apartments and townhomes. Our townhome community has 143 homes, apartment Lex has 387 units and Oak Grove has 134 units. Even if you assume there is an average of 3 people in a unit, you are looking at 2000 people affected by this encampment. Ramac Park is our breathing space in this area.



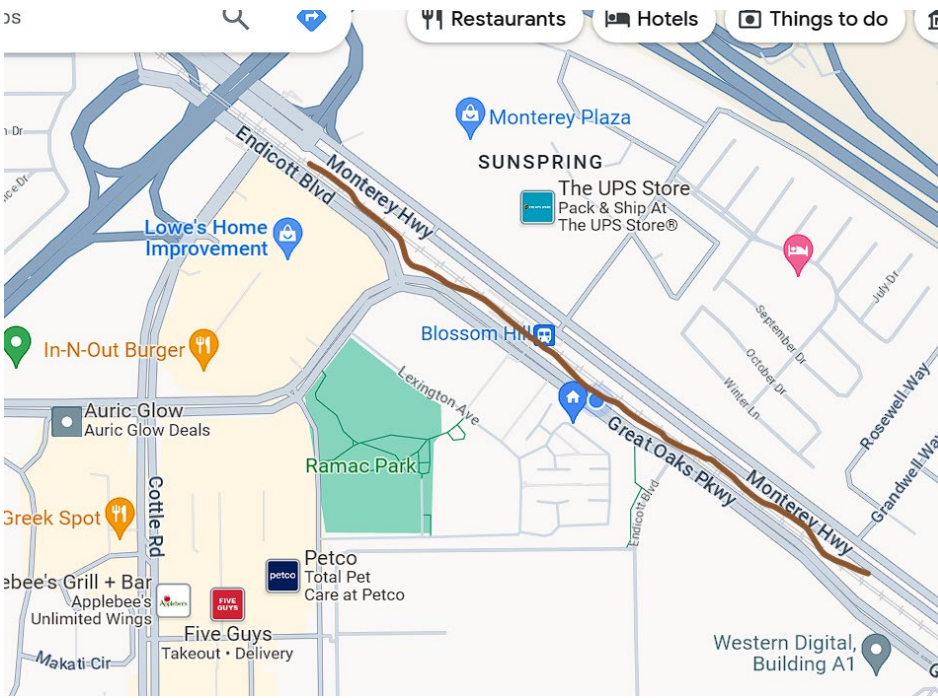
We have seen the following issues

- repeated gang tags
- crazy, drugged-up homeless people terrorizing the area
- frequent mail thefts
- homeless people casing our homes
- ransacking porches
- urinating on a neighbor's porch, community playground area, in the mailboxes
- trespassing into the patio and sleeping on the furniture.
- sleeping on the bench in the children's playground
- constant trespassing
- loud music
- frequent fire incidents though instructed by the city not to light fires because of the dry vegetation and the trees hovering over the tents.
- Ripping fences near the Caltrain station
- repeating illegal crossing of the tracks
- lighting fire pits, having propane tanks
- having projector etc (not sure where they get power from)
- harassing women boarding the early morning train. It is dark outside. Homeless people sleep on the ramp and once grabbed hold of a woman's leg when she was trying to go through the ramp. She is now driving to work in San Mateo (does not feel safe in the station anymore)

- when you look at crime mapping, there are so many shoplifting incidents in the retail stores nearby. This area was designed to be an urban transit village with access to public transit, stores, restaurants, etc.
- We see so many carts strewn across the area by the homeless blocking sidewalks and even the bike lanes.
- There have been incidents of disturbance in In-n-Out. There was a really intoxicated person yelling and threatening people there. He quickly ran to Ramac Park and to the Great Oaks area. The police could not get hold of him. I think the police were cautious about not hurting him or something.
- There have been multiple incidents of narcotics /alcohol incidents as per the crime map
- Some of these people have cars or have buddies who have cars. They park the car by the right lane (blocking one lane of traffic). They illegally park the cars by the tents. There are only two lanes and a bike lane. No curbside parking
- We have witnessed violent fistfights on the road bringing traffic to a standstill
- One person even managed to enter one of the townhomes and went to a neighbor's bedroom(3rd floor) at 5 a.m. It freaked out the young family. He left soon without any other incident after being yelled at. It would have been a different outcome if the homeowner was armed or something.
- As Mila and Elvera have sent information multiple times, there is a link to the people in the encampment and the stolen cars and car stripping in the Caltrain parking spot across the tracks.

We in San Jose have reached a station where law-abiding taxpayers feel helpless because the concerns we raise fall on deaf ears. Criminals are bold because almost every illegal activity they do does not have any consequence. Everyone knows that this encampment thrives on package thefts (around 650 residential units in a 0.5-mile radius) and shoplifting (Target, Safeway, Marshalls, Ulta, etc.). That is why this area is such a magnet for the homeless. We have had a few tents in the past. They got abated after some time. But in spite of our repeated requests, BeautifySJ never did any deterrent here to prevent tents from coming. This is just a disaster in the making. There are so many tents in the Endicott-Great Oaks Pkwy corner as it is so close to the shops. It is a no-brainer! The city should not be enabling this behavior by helping them stay here indefinitely and SJPD should not be turning a blind eye towards this issue.

Criminal activity was a trigger for abatement. We have been trying to work with BeautifySJ for so long and they believe that providing free trash fixes everything (which they don't do enough anyway). The cash for trash encourages these folks to hoard more and pile more litter. Andrea Flores Shelton (Deputy Director BeautifySJ) told me that they may be able to do something if SJPD can report criminal activity due to the encampment. I request you to take a look at this situation and do what is in your capacity to help us solve this issue. All we are asking is a safe neighborhood for our children. SJPD could play a major role in helping us move towards an abatement.



Adding Caltrain board also - they should be responsible for taking care of their passenger safety and making sure that their tracks are safe from people running across.

Regards,
Dhanya Rajan
408-431-1574

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Donohue, Stephen** <Stephen.Donohue@sanjoseca.gov>
Date: Sat, Sep 2, 2023 at 11:48 AM
Subject: RE: [NORTENOS]: cloverleaf, Cottle area and Great Oaks
To: Izzac Khayo <izz_khayo@yahoo.com>, Mila Heally <heallym@gmail.com>
Cc: Casillas, Jorge <Jorge.Casillas@sanjoseca.gov>, Dhanya Rajan <rajan.dhanya@gmail.com>, Elvera Faria <veggirl70@gmail.com>

Good morning, Izzac,
I'm not going to say, "No," to you meeting with our Gang Investigations Unit, but it is completely unnecessary. I am aware of all the tagging, what it looks like, what it means, and where it is. I'm also watching our gang crime to determine if we have any spikes. I attend the San Jose Youth Empowerment Alliance (formerly the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force) meetings every month, and I'm a team lead. I also manage three walking beats and one suppression detail where I can provide targeted enforcement to problem areas.
Ultimately, I have a handle on this.
Norteno graffiti is not unusual in the area. We have several gangs in Southern Division and we're constantly keeping an eye on them. Typically, the prevalence of tagging will ebb and flow. Right now,

it's ebbing. We're seeing more graffiti, but not the respective surge in gang crime.

Thank you,

-Steve

Captain Steve Donohue | Southern Division

Bureau of Field Operations | [San José Police Department](#)

From: Izzac Khayo <izz_khayo@yahoo.com>

Sent: Saturday, September 2, 2023 8:55 AM

To: Mila Heally <heallym@gmail.com>

Cc: Casillas, Jorge <Jorge.Casillas@sanjoseca.gov>; Dhanya Rajan <rajan.dhanya@gmail.com>; Donohue, Stephen <Stephen.Donohue@sanjoseca.gov>; Elvera Faria <veggirl70@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: [NORTENOS]: cloverleaf, Cottle area and Great Oaks

[External Email]

Good morning All,

Captain, is there a way for us to meet with the gang investigations Unit and share with them our concerns and findings .

There is an unusual number of Nortenos tagging in the area (cloverleaf and Great Oaks encampment), like I mentioned to the city in the last meeting , it is highly unlikely that the neighbors who live at station 121 , Avenue 1 , apartments and Urban oaks are associated with the Nortenos gang , most of them are in the high tech business.

On a different note , thank you Mila and Elvera for all the photos and thank you Jorge for being a good teacher (for the gang presentation).

Regards,

Izzac

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 2, 2023, at 8:00 AM, Mila Heally <heallym@gmail.com> wrote:

Captain,

It is gang.

It looks like prison gang tattoo.

Star and number 4 from 14.

Northern Star

Arco cloverleaf was covered with anti police tagging.

One tent had a sign that you could see part of the word "Justice".

They are spread ar cloverleaf and Great Oaks area as far as Bernal camp.

There is a Mayan 14 as far as Bernal.

We all noticed an increase this past 3 months.

We saw a woman very skinny with a tattoo on her face near Bernal Elh. She had red hair and was wearing shorts and gym top.

The guy with handlebar mustache and cruiser bike from Southgate Center at Blossom Hill and Snell was again riding the bike by Monterey Plaza by tracks last week.

<IMG_7487.jpeg>

<IMG_7504.jpeg>

ACAB by Arco

<IMG_7489.jpeg>

<IMG_7502.jpeg>

JULY 2023 reported already

She was holding something like a cooler

Or bucket and has gloves

<IMG_7485.jpeg>

<IMG_7484.jpeg>

<IMG_7483.jpeg>

Other day same spot

<IMG_7492.jpeg>

<IMG_7491.jpeg>

Sent from Gmail Mobile

On Fri, Sep 1, 2023 at 8:43 PM Mila Heally <heallym@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Captain,

Follow up to the text on WhatsApp.

We saw people again on the same spot where pedestrians are not allowed.

There is Nortenos tag and they were going right on the spot it was marked. They have stuff by the trees next to the road at Xanders near Lowe's at Cottle and I think we saw in this one too.

I suspect they are marking some spots for something with the tags or a place to go.

The woman had a bottle like liquor on her backpack.

The Caltrain lot car has a notice. And the white SUV at Beswick where the security guy was has a notice too.

Joseph Rois shared with me the audit for parking compliance and they mentioned that they hire contractors to do parking compliance too. It was probably a city contractor. Not sure if they were doing before or started to do now. The report is from 2021 I think.

Thanks,

Mila

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<IMG_7449.jpeg>

<IMG_7452.jpeg>

<IMG_7453.jpeg>

Caltrain

<IMG_7443.jpeg>

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