



JPB Board of Directors
Meeting of March 6, 2025

Correspondence as of February 14, 2025

Subject

1. Compliance with California Public Records Act
2. Why don't you put brushes on the trains?

From: Braden Cartwright <bcartwright@padailypost.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 1:19 PM
To: Board (@caltrain.com)
Subject: Compliance with California Public Records Act

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

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Dear Caltrain board,

I'd like to bring your attention to ongoing issues with receiving public records from Caltrain that are not being addressed by Caltrain staff. Caltrain has a history of ignoring requests and follow-ups submitted through its [online portal](#), where the public is directed to submit records requests.

On July 19, I filed Request 24-92 that wasn't responded to until Aug. 19. Government Code § 6253(c) gives agencies 10 days to determine whether a request seeks disclosable records, with a 14-day extension allowed in certain circumstances. I received no such initial determination, and Caltrain took 31 days to respond to my request. Caltrain was out of compliance with the Government Code § 6253(c) by 21 days.

On Dec. 2, I filed Request 24-157 that Caltrain responded to on Dec. 13 saying it needed a 14-day extension. Caltrain then missed its Dec. 27 deadline and finally responded on Jan. 30, out of compliance by 34 days. Even then, the response was incomplete and didn't provide an estimated timeline for fulfilling my request, just "as soon as we can." My follow-up attempts to get a date, as required by law, have been ignored.

Government Code § 6253(c) states: "The agency shall state the estimated date and time when the records will be made available."

I sent an email to Executive Director Michelle Bouchard describing my issues on Jan. 29 and received no response.

Per Government Code § 6253.1, when a member of the public requests to inspect a public record or obtain a copy of a public record, the public agency, in order to assist the member of the public make a focused and effective request that reasonably describes an identifiable record or records, shall assist the member of the public to identify records and information that are responsive to the request or to the purpose of the request, if stated.

Agencies can get sued and ordered to pay attorney fees for failing to respond within the timelines prescribed by the California Public Records Act.

Thanks,

Braden Cartwright
Reporter, Palo Alto Daily Post
(925) 784-8655

From: nuke dukem <austinjntaylor@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 2:46 PM
To: Board (@caltrain.com)
Subject: Why don't you put brushes on the trains?

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Good morning Caltrain board of directors,
I'm sorry if I emailed the wrong place but I've had a burning question for the last few days.
I've recently been thinking about the effect of leaves on rail lines and I'm wondering why you don't put a hand brush near where the sanders are? If you do it right it should take leaves out.

Sorry for bothering you guys,

-Austin