

**Caltrain Centralized Equipment Maintenance and Operations Facility (CEMOF)  
Monitoring Committee  
San Jose City Hall, 200 E. Santa Clara, 18th Floor, San Jose, CA  
January 27, 2016  
Minutes**

**Members Present:** Kelly McDonough (Arena), Brent Pearce (VTA), Clay Riegel (College Park), Mike Riepe (Shasta-Hanchett Park)

**Members Absent:** David Olmeda (Caltrain), Jos Peijnenburg (Garden Alameda), Councilmember Raul Peralez (San Jose City Council)

**Staff Present:** B. Tietjen, N. Debessay

Vice Chair Mike Riepe called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes – October 28, 2015**

Motion/Second: Pearce/ McDonough

Ayes: McDonough, Pearce, Riepe, Riegel

Absent: Olmeda, Peijnenburg, Peralez

**Public Comment**

None.

**Staff Report**

Brent Tietjen, Acting Community Relations Officer, said the hotline log was posted and it included the one comment from 2015. The comment was about idling noise at the facility and the resident lived about a mile away. Staff found no unusual activity that may have contributed to the noise complaint.

Vice Chair Riepe said he had concerns with the response given by Caltrain. Vice Chair Riepe said the response was a boilerplate response and it did not include information on the Shared Objectives. The specific shared objectives that pertain to this complaint were Shared Objective A-5 and A-12. Vice Chair Riepe read Shared Objectives A-5 and A-12.

Vice Chair Riepe requested a response from the operations representative regarding the two Shared Objectives.

Nahom Debessay, Acting Manager, Rail Operations said he was able to retrieve a policy that Caltrain and Transit America Services, Inc (TASI) has and follows

when they have equipment in the CEMOF yard. Mr. Debessay said the policy is similar to the Shared Objective that Vice Chair Riepe read. Mr. Debessay said TASI is following those policies and Caltrain continues to enforce the policy.

Vice Chair Riepe said that it is hard to verify Shared Objective A-5 and asked if there is anything Caltrain can do to get a snapshot of how many locomotives are idling and how long on average they idle

Mr. Debessay said he can look into the data that is available to the agency. Mr. Debessay said that Caltrain periodically audits the rail contractor, TASI and that he can look into what the Agency has and ensure that TASI is complying with the current policy.

Vice Chair Riepe said he would leave that suggestion for Chair Jos Peijnenburg to follow-up on at a later meeting.

Vice Chair Riepe said the second Shared Objective was related to cold temperatures. Vice Chair Riepe said there was no particular response to the complaint regarding cold temperatures and if that had anything to do with the increased noise.

Mr. Debessay said that older equipment is usually run to keep warm if the temperature drops below 20 degrees. Mr. Debessay said that new equipment can sometimes operate down to zero degrees before they decide to keep the trains idle.

Vice Chair Riepe said the main point was that when future complaints come in, he would like to see the Shared Objectives referenced and addressed in the responses. Vice Chair Riepe asked for this particular complaint, can it be looked into if there was a particular cold weather event would have caused this particular event.

Mr. Tietjen said that it was helpful feedback regarding the response to the complaints.

Vice Chair Riepe asked how temperature affects the operations and idling of trains.

Mr. Debessay said he does not know of any specific information regarding temperature in the policy but he will look into it. Mr. Debessay said that the policy includes general guidelines on when the train engines should be turned on to prepare for service.

#### Public Comment

Roland Lebrun, San Jose, said the reason is that Caltrain is not using on-platform power is because they are too lazy to plug it in and they do not get away with it in San Francisco and that we should start doing the same thing at Diridon. Vice Chair Riepe said that sometimes the trains have to move around the yard getting vacuumed or refilled but the commitment is that once they are stopped for the night, they are not supposed to idle for more than one hour.

Mr. Tietjen said that there is expected to be additional train service in preparation for Super Bowl 50 and related events.

### **Chairperson's Report**

None

### **Committee Report**

Brent Pearce thanked Caltrain staff for giving the Committee members the tour of the CEMOF facility and added that it was helpful to see the source of the noise and scope of operations at the facility.

### **New Business**

Kelly McDonough said that she has recently moved out of the Garden Alameda neighborhood and was now in the Quarry neighborhood. She said she is happy to stay on the committee if she is still eligible.

Mr. Tietjen said he would look into it and follow up with Kelly Directly.

Jean Cohen, Councilmember Raul Peralez' Office (San Jose, District 3), said that Councilmember Peralez has been recently appointed to the Caltrain Board of Directors and if there is anything that needs attention in his new role, please feel free to reach out to him directly.

### **Old Business**

None

### **Announcements**

Brent Pearce said that VTA will be providing special service on Super Bowl Sunday and that VTA will have a different operating plan than normal. Mr. Pearce recommended visiting their website at [vta.org/sb50](http://vta.org/sb50) for more details.

Mr. Tietjen said that Caltrain will be running extra trains for the Super Bowl service.

Clay Riegel asked if the extra service is anticipated to affect CEMOF operations.

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Mr. Debessay said yes, there will be extra train moves as part of the extra service needs.

Vice Chair Riepe said that they will expect more noise and activities at the facility and that he would share that information with the neighborhood association in the coming week.

Vice Chair Riepe thanked the committee and staff for attending the meeting.

The next meeting will be April 27, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjourn: 6:26 p.m.