



**CALTRAIN CENTRALIZED EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE
AND OPERATIONS FACILITY
MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA**

San Jose City Hall
200 E. Santa Clara, 8th Floor, Rm. T-847

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

6:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of October 22, 2008
4. PUBLIC COMMENT
5. STAFF REPORT
6. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT
7. COMMITTEE REPORT
9. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Reappointment of Arena Neighborhood/At-large Member M. Smith
8. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Screeching Tracks/Lubricator Maintenance M. Bouchard
 - b. Approval of Revised Bylaws M. Smith
 - c. Extended Engine Idling M. Bouchard
 - d. Neighborhood Outreach/Online Survey C. Escher
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS
11. ADJOURN

Members: Michael Smith, *Chair*-Shasta-Hanchett Park; Chris Escher-Arena, Sally Logothetti-Garden Alameda, Elizabeth Monley-College Park, Pierluigi Oliverio-San Jose City Council



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**Caltrain Centralized Equipment Maintenance and Operations Facility
(CEMOF) Monitoring Committee
San Jose City Hall, 200 E. Santa Clara, 8th Floor, San Jose, CA**

**October 22, 2008
Minutes**

Members Present: Chris Escher (Arena), Elizabeth Monley (College Park), Sally Logothetti (Garden Alameda), Mike Smith (Shasta/Hanchett Park)

Members Absent: Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio (San Jose City Council)

Staff Present: Tasha Bartholomew, Michelle Bouchard, Nancy McKenna

Attendees: David Berry, Kay Gutknecht, Francis Reyes (City of San Jose), Mike Riepe, Ben Tripousis (City of San Jose), Tessa Woodmansee

Chair Mike Smith called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of July 23, 2008 were approved (Monley/Escher).

PUBLIC COMMENT

David Berry has lived at Lenzen/Stockton Avenues since 2005. This is prior to the opening of the facility. He now hears noise and idling of trains at night. He has communicated with Manager of Customer Service Rona Rios about this noise, but doesn't feel he is receiving a satisfactory explanation. Mr. Berry feels there is a lack of knowledge among the neighbors on how to complain about the noise. The apartments across from where he lives weren't even aware there was a hotline.

Deputy Director of Rail Operations Michelle Bouchard said the hotline answers other calls and staff may have to explain again to the people staffing the hotline what CEMOF is.

Mr. Berry said Ms. Rios informed his wife there is nothing she can do about the complaints at the time the complaint comes in. Mr. Berry said trains are idling all night and some nights there is excessive noise beyond idling.

He feels there needs to be someone to contact at the facility at the time the noise is happening.

Chris Escher asked Mr. Berry how the noise is impacting his life. Mr. Berry said he has loss of sleep.

Ms. Bouchard said nothing has ever been said to the committee about shutting down equipment. She will look into the excessive idling at night. Part of agreement between the committee and the Joint Powers Board was to have the first four departures staged at Diridon Station. The last train is brought down at 2 a.m. and there may be some idling during the night as trains are brought to Diridon Station. Ms. Bouchard said the bell ringing has been decreased, but there is some idling that needs to continue. Staff is working with Amtrak to make sure engines are shut down whenever possible.

Mr. Berry said the engines are idling very regularly.

Ms. Bouchard said trains overlap and he may be hearing different trains idling in sequence.

Tessa Woodmansee asked what the requirements/limitations for diesel are.

Ms. Bouchard said all the locomotives are at current environmental standards and in terms of carbons there are no specific legislations. Staff is complying with shutting down trains that will be sitting for more than an hour. She said trains are on ground power when cleaned. Before trains are deployed to the Diridon Station they could idle for 20 minutes.

Chair Smith would like to add the idling issue to the outstanding items chart.

Ms. Woodmansee asked if the idling can be brought down.

Ms. Bouchard said before trains can depart there is a pre-inspection and the train needs to idle for 30 minutes. She said staff is spot checking what Amtrak is doing.

Mr. Berry said he hears a lot of bell ringing at the facility.

Ms. Bouchard said it is a safety rule. Workers use to ring the bell when they initiate train movement and the ringing continues to advise workers

equipment is being moved. Now the bell is rung with the initial movement and then the only other time the bell rings is if someone is in harm's way.

Neighborhood Outreach/Online Survey

Public Information Specialist Tasha Bartholomew said Chief Communications Officer Rita Haskin would like Mr. Escher to do the first draft and give to Public Information Officer Christine Dunn who will have it put into Survey Monkey. Once the survey is in Survey Monkey the committee members can pass the link onto the neighborhoods for completion.

Chair Smith said the committee needs to find out where people live and who is affected.

Mr. Berry said the committee needs to find how people in the immediate area are affected and he would like the committee to consider some type of third party noise decibel reading.

Ms. Woodmansee said there needs to be a direct mailing piece to the neighborhoods.

Sally Logothetti would like to review the survey at the January meeting before it is distributed.

Chair Smith appointed Mr. Escher and Elizabeth Monley to a sub-committee to work on the survey.

Ms. Bouchard said in response to Mr. Berry's request for decibel readings this has already been done by the train wash. She said potentially readings could be done by the houses.

Ms. Monley said the danger of doing readings is they pick up the community noise level and this tends to get averaged over time and not incident by incident.

Mr. Berry said he lives in a very fluid neighborhood and he doesn't think this type of survey is going to reach these types of people.

Ms. Logothetti wanted to make it clear that the committee not jump ahead by getting engineering reports. She feels the committee should wait and see what the responses are from the survey.

Mr. Escher left at 6:50 p.m.

Chair Smith said at the next meeting he would like an update on the idling issue and survey.

Ms. Bouchard will speak with Director of Maintenance David Olmeda about spot checking idling trains.

Ms. Woodmansee is concerned how complaints are listed on the call log.

Ms. Monley said Mr. Escher may have said that people don't use the hotline and that is why the survey needs to be done.

Ms. Woodmansee said the bell ringing disturbs the neighborhood and she is glad to see it has reduced.

Ms. Bouchard said the trains that go by the facility don't have to ring their bells. The bell ringing is in the facility. Staff has put a stop to bell ringing when just passing through and the bell rings only when passing someone on the right-of-way which is a Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) rule. Ms. Bouchard said people should not be crossing at the Stockton crossing and the bells will ring at this location.

Ms. Woodmansee said the screeching has been bad in the past, but recently been better. She would appreciate anything on bell ringing.

Staff Report

There was no report.

Chairperson's Report

There was no report.

Committee Report

There was no report.

Improvements at Stockton Avenue Grade Crossing Closure

Ms. Bouchard said a public hearing was held in 2004 for the closure of Stockton Avenue. The street was officially vacated in June/July 2005 and K-rail was installed. The contractors have been working on additional striping and landscaping. The work should be completed by end of 2009.

Ben Tripousis from the City of San Jose said the issue is the railroad still needs access. It is unlikely there will be trees or large shrubs in the area as the JPB needs access to fence line.

Ms. Bouchard said this is not the improvement for the College Park station.

Ms. Monley said College Park is her neighborhood and there is discussion at Bellarmine High School of having another drop-off area at the Emery intersection. She would like to bring the plans to the College Park neighborhood general meeting since the neighborhood and Bellarmine are tightly together.

Ms. Bouchard said she will bring this item back to the Engineering staff. This was just an informational item only and no action is being taken.

Ms. Monley said this committee received an e-mail that the College Park station was going to have some improvements done and require use of large equipment around the clock. This e-mail was sent out on Saturday and she received strong complaints from the neighborhood. Ms. Monley said staff needs to give the neighborhood more advance notice.

Chair Smith said he had the e-mail from Ms. Dunn and will forward to Ms. Bouchard

2009 Meeting Schedule

Meeting schedule was distributed.

Screeching Tracks/Lubricator Maintenance

Ms. Bouchard said the decibel reading has been finished. The noise is coming from track one where Union Pacific operates on and generates the screeching the members are hearing. Ms. Bouchard said Portec, the providers of the lubricator, is going to do a trial run with a type of rail friction modifier that is suitable for this type of screeching and then go back out with decibel reader and compare before and after. The next difficult step is going to UP and show them the results and ask them to install equipment. Ms. Bouchard could not give timing on this issue.

Chair Smith asked if someone putting grease in the lubricator. Ms. Bouchard responded that someone is suppose to.

Update on Approval of Revised Bylaws

Chair Smith said this item will be on the San Jose City Council's consent calendar on October 28. He hopes the JPB will have a representative for the January meeting.

Ms. Woodmansee asked if the committee has reached out to the neighborhoods for committee members.

Announcements

Ms. Monley said Michael Blackman was elected President of College Park neighborhood association. She asked that Michael Hinds be removed from the mailing list and Mr. Blackman be added.

Adjourn 7:30