PG&E Begins Relocating Electric Facilities to Support Caltrain Electrification

By Mayra Tostado

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO — One of the oldest commuter rail services in the West is getting a makeover and this week PG&E began relocating its electric facilities along Caltrain’s 51-mile corridor to support the electrification of Caltrain.

The enhancements will mean greener, faster and more reliable service, replacing the current diesel trains with a new fleet of electric train cars that will be powered by PG&E.

Crews working for PG&E began relocating poles in South San Francisco and San Bruno on Nov. 13 to support the electrification of Caltrain.

“It is truly exciting to begin relocating electric facilities for a project that is expected to provide numerous benefits to the communities PG&E serves along Caltrain’s route,” said Jonathan Seager, PG&E’s director of State Infrastructure Projects. “The electrification of Caltrain will not only modernize a vital Bay Area transportation system, but will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality.”

PG&E is relocating its facilities in separate phases to accommodate Caltrain’s needs along the corridor from San Francisco to San Jose and will deliver power to support electrified trains that are expected to start running in 2022.
Crews working for PG&E are currently replacing poles in South San Francisco and San Bruno, with taller poles to provide safe clearance for the construction and eventual operation of Caltrain’s new overhead wire system.

Once relocation work is completed in South San Francisco and San Bruno, PG&E will proceed with subsequent phases of relocation work along Caltrain’s corridor. In total, PG&E expects over 200 poles may be replaced along Caltrain’s 51-mile stretch of track along the Peninsula.

To support Caltrain’s electrification project, PG&E will also upgrade two substations — one in South San Francisco and the other in San Jose — to meet Caltrain’s service requirements and to continue providing safe and reliable service to our customers.

This work is expected to begin in 2018 when PG&E will provide temporary power for train testing. Permanent power is expected to be completed in 2021.

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