



JPB Board of Directors
Meeting of May 7, 2020

Correspondence as of May 6, 2020

Subject

1 211 Bay Area COVID-19 Update Request

2 Excessive Train Idling at 4th and King Station

From: 211bayarea
To: [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](mailto:Board (@caltrain.com))
Subject: 211 Bay Area COVID-19 Program Updates
Date: Monday, May 4, 2020 4:37:37 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)



COVID-19: Please send us your updates!

Hello partner agency,

Thank you for submitting your COVID-19 status update to us in March. As the COVID-19 Shelter-in-Place Order is still in effect, we would like to keep track of the latest changes and keep the community well informed of services available when contacting our 211 Center.

If the current status of your organization remains the same as last month, please reply by email indicating there is no new update information at this time. Otherwise, please send updates on the attached template to 211bayarea@icfs.org to let us know:

- **Your current hours of operation**
- **Services currently provided** (i.e. confirmation of services you are continuing to provide, services that are currently suspended, changes to existing programs)
- **Ways to access your services, given Shelter in Place**

If your agency provides food/meal deliveries or services for vulnerable populations, please include that as well. Thank you for your help!

211 Bay Area will continue to be accessible 24/7/365 during this COVID-19 response.

Call 211 or visit 211bayarea.org

For Coronavirus information, text the word “Coronavirus” to 211-211 to receive a direct link to the CDC Coronavirus information and your public health department website, which provides answers to commonly asked questions.

Please include information below and email it back to 211bayarea@icfs.org. Thank you for your help!

Name of Organization	
Counties Served	
Phone	
Current Hours of Operation	
Services currently provided during COVID19 response (i.e. confirmation of services you are continuing to provide, services that are currently suspended, and changes to existing program)	
Ways to access your services, given Shelter in Place	
Office address currently open (is it ADA accessible?)	
Website	

Contact person's name, phone and email	
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211 Bay Area is a program of United Way Bay Area. Please contact Gaby Fuller at United Way if you have any other questions or concerns. Her email is gfuller@unitedwaysca.org

From: [Raymond Chang](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Excessive train idling at 4th and King Station
Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 1:24:29 PM

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of an apartment complex next to the 4th and King Station, I have been subject to the constant noise of idling trains (starting from when I wake up, and sometimes all the way until 1 AM past midnight) - even with all my apartment windows fully closed. It's causing a lot of stress, since I am unable to focus on my work, and due to the shelter-in-place order, I am unable to go elsewhere. I do understand that trains need to idle during peak commute hours when layovers are short, but that doesn't seem to be the case with the current reduced schedule.

I happened to stumble upon an article from the San Francisco Chronicle 3 years ago: <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Some-Mission-Bay-neighbors-fuming-over-12383764.php>

In the article, it states the following:

Caltrain's manager of rail operations, Ben Burns, said the agency developed a strict protocol in February, partly in response to complaints by neighbors. The 29 passenger trains all have technology installed to turn off their engines automatically for layovers of more than 20 minutes, provided that the outside temperature, battery voltage and engine pressure are at levels that allow the trains to restart. Engineers are also required to shut trains down and hook them up to electricity if a layover is expected to exceed one hour.

"From a monetary standpoint, we don't like trains sitting around and idling for no reason," Burns said. "That's money wasted for us."

Burns pointed out that trains can burn through 10 to 20 gallons of fuel — up to \$45 in taxpayer money — for every hour they spend parked with their engines running.

In the article, it also states the following:

Mike Cheney, a retired trainer for the diesel division at San Francisco's Muni, noted that the protocol is voluntary and subject to human vagaries.

"They have the technology," Cheney said, "but if the engineers don't turn it on, there's no punishment."

Given the current reduced schedule, there are no cases where there isn't at least an hour in between departing trains from the San Francisco station. I would also assume that all the train layovers exceed 20 minutes (and I assume some of these trains have been idling for more than an hour). As a San Francisco resident + taxpayer, I don't want to see my tax dollars being used to burn diesel fuel for an idling train, which in turn is causing both noise and air pollution. I do recognize the value that Caltrain brings to the area as a whole, but I do hope that Caltrain can address this issue, which is affecting many residents in the surrounding area near the train station (who are all sheltering-in-place, hoping that one day things will be back to normal, and that includes Caltrain ridership).

Thanks,

-Raymond