



JPB Board of Directors  
Meeting of May 1, 2025

Correspondence as of April 30, 2025

# Subject

1. Join Us in Promoting Youth Leadership in the Bay Area
2. Caltrain using Gas Leaf Blowers at Palo Alto station at night, in violation of local ordinance
3. public comment on item 9 on 5/1/2025 BoD agenda.

**From:** [Kate Wexell](#)  
**To:** [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](#)  
**Subject:** Join Us in Promoting Youth Leadership in the Bay Area  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 9:25:41 PM

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You don't often get email from [kate.wexell@scouting.org](mailto:kate.wexell@scouting.org). [Learn why this is important](#)

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To the CalTrain Board of Directors,

I'm reaching out on behalf of Pacific Skyline Council, Scouting America, to invite your board to support our Distinguished Citizen Award Dinner honoring San Mateo Mayor Rob Newsom Jr. The event celebrates civic leadership and supports over 4,700 youth in our Bay Area Scouting programs.

We're \$15,000 away from our \$185,000 goal, and your support can make a real impact. A table for ten is \$2,000, or individual tickets are \$275. Donations of any amount are welcome and tax-deductible.

We would love to have members of your board represent the CalTrain at the event since it is such a critical company for San Mateo.

Join us in celebrating Mayor Newsom and investing in the future of our youth. Details and registration are at [pacsky.org/dcad](https://pacsky.org/dcad).

Best,

**Kate Wexell** | Development Director

**SCOUTING AMERICA**

**Pacific Skyline Council**

Foster City Service Center

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Foster City, CA 94404

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[www.pacsky.org](https://www.pacsky.org)

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**From:** [Helene Grossman](#)  
**To:** [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](#)  
**Subject:** Caltrain using Gas Leaf Blowers at Palo Alto station at night, in violation of local ordinance  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 11:03:37 PM

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Dear Caltrain Board of Directors,

I am writing again regarding Caltrain's use of gas-powered leaf blowers (GLBs) at its stations. I previously raised this issue concerning the San Francisco 4th and King station. Today at 7:30 pm, I observed a GLB in use at the Palo Alto Caltrain station, directly violating Palo Alto's longstanding ordinance, which prohibits GLBs in residential areas entirely and restricts their use in commercial areas after 6 pm.

Caltrain should respect and comply with the ordinances of the cities it serves. Moreover, the sale of gas-powered leaf blowers is now banned throughout California due to their significant environmental impact, including pollution, smog contribution, and extreme noise generation. It is puzzling and disappointing to see Caltrain continue employing these outdated and harmful devices.

Recently, Caltrain invested \$2.5 billion in electrifying its trains to modernize service, enhance environmental sustainability, and reduce noise. Continuing to use GLBs contradicts this commendable initiative, undermines Caltrain's stated goals, and negatively impacts both rider and community experiences.

I kindly request Caltrain immediately discontinue using gas-powered leaf blowers at all stations to align with your commitments to sustainability, public health, and community standards. For reference, here are video recordings of the incident—though captured from across the street amid traffic, they clearly demonstrate the use and nuisance caused by these devices ([video1](#), [video2](#))

Thank you for your attention. I look forward to your response and to seeing Caltrain lead by example in sustainability and environmental stewardship.

Sincerely,

Helene Grossman

**From:** [Bill Hough](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** public comment on item 9 on 5/1/2025 BoD agenda.  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 30, 2025 9:46:47 AM

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Good morning:

I am writing as a resident and taxpayer in Santa Clara County.

On Friday, April 25, the Board discussed SB 63 (Wiener/ Arreguin) which would establish a regional transportation revenue measure.

We don't need another regressive transportation funding measure. Our taxes are already too high.

Vote NO.

Over the last several elections, voters in Santa Clara County have passed multiple tax and fee increases including gas taxes, the Caltrain Measure RR tax, two bridge toll increases, three VTA sales taxes, Santa Clara County's Measure A 1/8 cent sales tax, the state prop 30 ¼ cent sales tax and the 2010 Measure B Vehicle Registration Fee of \$10. Additionally, we're on the hook to pay back numerous state bond issues including high-speed rail, the Proposition 1 water bond and the infrastructure bonds of 2006.

All this nickel and diming contributes into making the Bay Area a horribly expensive place to live; especially for people of modest means, who must pay the greatest percentage of their income in these regressive taxes and fees. Each increase by itself does not amount to much, but the cumulative effect is to add to the unaffordability of the region.

Before increasing taxes YET AGAIN, waste needs to be removed from transportation projects. VTA needs to "value engineer the BART to San Jose project, going with a twin bore tunnel and eliminating the redundant BART extension between the San Jose and Santa Clara Caltrain stations. The BART segment from these stations would duplicate both the existing Caltrain line and VTA's 22 and 522 buses.

Bill Hough