



JPB Board of Directors
Meeting of October 1, 2026

Correspondence as of September 4, 2026

Subject

1. RE: Cement dust exposure on SB Caltrain 814 on Friday 8/28 at around 4.30 PM – *Staff response*
2. Ticket questions for a nonprofit
3. Please Fix Real Time Alerts - it's terrible
4. Item 7.14. 2016 Measure B Caltrain Corridor Capacity Program Category Expenditure Plan FY2027 to FY2031
5. When is a board expected to take public comment about a closed session item in California?

From: Brent Tietjen
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 6:11 PM
To: ccss@msn.com
Cc: Baltao, Elaine [board.secretary@vta.org]; MTC Commission; citycouncil@morganhill.ca.gov; allcouncilmembers@cityofgilroy.org; Board (@caltrain.com)
Subject: RE: Cement dust exposure on SB Caltrain 814 on Friday 8/28 at around 4.30 PM

Hi Mr. Lebrun,

Thank you for your message. Our construction, operations, and environmental compliance teams have investigated this complaint, and we are unable to find any record of cement dust entering the train or around the Guadalupe River Bridge Replacement Project site on Friday, August 28, 2026.

As noted in your email, there was a report of train 814 stopping because of debris reported on the tracks around Tamien Station, although the debris was unrelated to the project construction activities. The construction team for the Guadalupe River Bridge Replacement Project has confirmed that there is no cement currently on-site or being poured for the Project. Additionally, the project team follows environmental compliance requirements that include water trucks on site to ensure proper dust control.

If you have any additional information that would support our investigation, please let us know.

Thanks,

Brent Tietjen, External Affairs Manager

tietjenb@caltrain.com

166 N. Rollins Road, Millbrae, CA 94030

From: Roland Lebrun <ccss@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 3:47 AM
To: Caltrain Board <board@caltrain.com>
Cc: VTA Board Secretary <board.secretary@vta.org>; MTC Commission <info@mtc.ca.gov>; citycouncil@morganhill.ca.gov <citycouncil@morganhill.ca.gov>; allcouncilmembers@cityofgilroy.org <allcouncilmembers@cityofgilroy.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Cement dust exposure on SB Caltrain 814 on Friday 8/28 at around 4.30 PM

Dear Chair Medina and Board members,

The intent of this email is to report multiple issues experienced with the same southbound "South County Connector" train 814 on Friday 8/28 at around 4.30 PM

My trip started with SB514 Express to Diridon which departed San Francisco on time at 3.20 PM.

The trip was uneventful until we hit an unexpected stop in the Sunnyvale area. As we were approaching Diridon, the conductor announced that we were running late but that the SB814 south county connector scheduled to depart from Diridon at 4.23 PM would be waiting for us on the opposite side of the platform.

Upon arriving at Diridon and crossing the platform, my fellow passengers and I did find a south county connector train on the opposite side of the platform but all doors were closed. We eventually figured out that there were two southbound connectors stacked on the same platform and that **ours was the train on the south side of the platform approximately 300 feet away**. We had to run like crazy to make the connection but we made it.

Shortly after departing Diridon, SB814 stopped at the Guadalupe River bridge project between Diridon and Tamien **because of "debris on the track" caused by the Guadalupe bridge reconstruction crews.** **Shortly after stopping, the entire train filled with cement dust which my fellow passengers and I had to inhale for about 10 minutes because the air conditioning was not recirculating and the HVAC filters were either ineffective (or completely missing) and we did not have any face masks.**

Text messages I exchanged with my wife indicate that the train started moving at 4.45 PM, **22 minutes after the scheduled departure time from Diridon** indicating that the train was running approximately 20 minutes late.



Gemini response to the incident

A single 10-minute exposure to cement dust on the train is highly unlikely to cause cancer. The carcinogenic risks associated with respirable crystalline silica and hexavalent chromium are almost entirely tied to chronic, years-long occupational exposure. Your body's natural defense mechanisms are designed to clear single incidents of particulate inhalation over time. [1]

However, because cement dust is highly alkaline (caustic), you may experience immediate, acute short-term irritation. [1, 2]

Short-Term Symptoms to Monitor

Given that the dust was pulled directly into the cabin for 10 minutes, you or your fellow passengers might notice: [1]

- **Respiratory tract irritation:** Coughing, phlegm, throat tickling, wheezing, or minor shortness of breath.
- **Eye irritation:** Burning, redness, or a gritty feeling due to the dust reacting with tear moisture.
- **Nasal congestion:** Runny nose or sneezing as your nasal passages trap the larger particles. [1, 2, 3, 4]

Recommended Immediate Steps

1. **Flush and Clean:** Wash your face, flush your eyes with clean water or sterile saline if they feel irritated, and blow your nose to clear out any trapped particles. Change and wash the clothes you were wearing to avoid continuing to breathe the trapped dust. [5]
2. **Hydrate:** Drink plenty of water to help soothe your throat and vocal cords.
3. **Report the Incident:** You should file an official report regarding the HVAC failure with [Caltrain Customer Service](#) or via their mobile channels. Because of the ongoing [\\$171 million Guadalupe River Bridge Replacement Project](#) right where your train stopped, contractors are actively working with concrete and heavy materials. **Documenting that a stopped train filled with construction dust due to improper air recirculation is crucial for their safety review.** [6, 7]

If you have a pre-existing respiratory condition like asthma or COPD, or if a persistent cough, wheezing, or shortness of breath lasts for more than a few days, please consult a healthcare professional for a medical evaluation. [1]

To help me provide more tailored guidance, please let me know:

- Are you or anyone you were traveling with **currently experiencing severe symptoms** like continuous coughing or trouble breathing?
- Do you have any **pre-existing respiratory conditions** like asthma?

[1] <https://www.pranaair.com>

[2] <https://dustcontrol.us>

[3] <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>

[4] <https://www.haspod.com>

[5] <https://jrvrgroup.com>

[6] <https://www.rtands.com>

[7] <https://www.progressiverailroading.com>

Please consider initiating a full investigation of working conditions at the Guadalupe River reconstruction site as a matter of urgency to avoid any further recurrences of putting Caltrain passengers in harm's way.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Roland Lebrun

From: [Ana Belo](#)
To: [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](#); [Customer Service](#)
Subject: Ticket questions for a nonprofit
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 6:57:43 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from ana_belo@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello Caltrain Team -

I was not sure which was the best email to reach out to. My name is Ana Belo and I am the administrative coordinator at Next Play Bay Area. We are working with the ALIVE team for this inaugural event. ALIVE was created to honor Wendy Tam (2000-2025) and help raise awareness for Mucinous Ovarian Cancer (MOC) – the rare disease that took her life – through a powerful day focused on fitness, wellness, community, and connection. This event will bring together the Bay Area wellness community, local organizations, and community leaders for a day that celebrates how Wendy lived.

ALIVE will be held at Washington Park in Burlingame on Saturday, September 19th. Burlingame train station is right across the street from the park and we would like to be able to encourage participants to use public transit as parking can be difficult to find around the area.

With that being said, would Caltrain be able to offer free train rides for the day if participants can show their event ticket?

Please let us know if this can be a possibility as we want to make sure that we can draw as much attention to the event and make getting there as convenient as possible.

Thank you so much for your time in advance and look forward in hearing from you.

Ana Belo

From: [Drew Ortega](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Please Fix Real Time Alerts - it's terrible
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2026 12:44:39 AM

You don't often get email from drewsortega@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello, I am a Caltrain rider who rides multiple times a week from SF to Mountain View.

Caltrain real time alerts are not only inaccurate, they are misleading and dangerous, and waste everyone's time. The September 2 incident regarding the car strike is a prime example. For most of the evening, it only said 2 trains were delayed 10 minutes on the website. Then trains were delayed up to an hour, which is absolutely false.

Outside of the September 2 incident, the alerts are not useful. They often only mention single train delays (and usually 30+ minutes after they are passed), and do not announce the health of the whole system. A reader of these alerts may see a specific train is delayed, notice that it is not their train, and expect no delay. But then because it's a single track system, it affects all trains.

Caltrain needs to provide realtime updates, with holistic states about the health of the system. And deliver it tomorrow. It's embarrassing for a system like Caltrain.

I just want alerts to know if I should even consider wasting my time riding Caltrain that day.

- Drew Ortega

From: [Roland Lebrun](#)
To: [Baltao, Elaine \[board.secretary@vta.org\]](#)
Cc: [Board \(\[@caltrain.com\]\)](#); [cacsecretary \(\[@caltrain.com\]\)](#); [citycouncil@morganhill.ca.gov](#); [allcouncilmembers@cityofgilroy.org](#); [MTC Commission](#)
Subject: Item 7.14. 2016 Measure B Caltrain Corridor Capacity Program Category Expenditure Plan FY2027 to FY2031
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2026 2:51:57 AM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[image.png](#)

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Dear Chair Lopez and Board Members,

This email is intended to inform the Board that the **rampant misappropriation of \$300M in 2016 Measure B Caltrain Corridor Capacity** continues unabated.

Specifically, the first two slides from the [August Mobility Management & Capital Programs Committee](#) clearly spell out the **Ballot Language as approved by the voters of Santa Clara County**.



**2016 Measure B Caltrain
Corridor Capacity
Improvements Program
Expenditure Plan FY2027
to FY2031**

Mobility Management & Capital Programs
Committee
August 2026

 Valley
Transportation
Authority

1

2016 Measure B Caltrain Corridor Capacity - Recap

- According to the Program Guidelines, the purpose of the Caltrain Corridor Capacity Improvements category is:

“To fund Caltrain corridor capacity improvements and increased service in Santa Clara County in order to ease highway congestion, including:

- Increased service to Morgan Hill and Gilroy**
- Station improvements**
- Level boarding**
- Extended platforms**
- Service enhancements.”**



Moving on to 2016 [Measure B Caltrain Corridor Capacity Improvements Program: Caltrain FY27 to FY31 Funding Needs in Santa Clara County](#) (below) it is clear that **at-grade crossing enhancements, CCTV at stations and “Station Experience and Access Program” cannot possibly have anything to do with “Corridor capacity enhancements” let alone “increased service”.**

Projects	Anticipated total project cost (\$M)	Anticipated total 2016 MB need (\$M)	Anticipated Budget Need					En
			FY27	FY28*	FY29*	FY30*	FY31*	
At-grade Crossing Baseline Safety Enhancement Program	\$ 2.75	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.50					
At-grade Crossing Advanced Safety Enhancement Program	\$ 200.00	\$ 55.00		\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	
Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) at Stations	\$ 14.00	\$ 4.00		\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	
Station Experience and Access Program	-	\$ 10.70		\$ 10.70				
Operating Assistance								
Additional (4th Train) Gilroy Service - Operating funds	-	\$ 12.00	\$ 2.20	\$ 2.20	\$ 2.20	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.50	
Additional Weekend Service - Operating funds			Pending					
TOTAL	\$ 216.75	\$ 88.20	\$ 2.70	\$ 28.90	\$ 18.20	\$ 18.50	\$ 13.50	

*Allocations may be approved during the biennial budget process as BOD-adopted project readiness criteria are met

Please consider directing staff to comply with the wishes of the voters and reallocate these precious funds back to address the issue of 145,000 daily vehicles going through Morgan Hill every day.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Roland Lebrun

From: [Roland Lebrun](#)
To: [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](#)
Subject: When is a board expected to take public comment about a closed session item in California?
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2026 9:50:16 AM

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders.

A board in California must allow public comment on a closed session item **before or during the legislative body's consideration of the item** in the open session portion of the meeting. [1, 2]

Public Comment Timing Rules

- **Before or during:** Under California's [Ralph M. Brown Act](#) (Gov. Code § 54954.3), the public has the right to speak on any agenda item, including closed session items, before the body goes into the closed session or as part of the item's open-session introduction. [1, 2]
- **Prior open session:** The board must first convene in an open public meeting, agendize the closed session properly, and permit public testimony on that closed session matter before moving behind closed doors. [1]
- **Reporting out:** After the closed session ends and the board reconvenes in open session, the board must report on any specific actions taken during the closed session if required by law. [1]

If you'd like, let me know:

- Is this a **city council, school board, or state agency** meeting?
- Are you trying to provide comment on a **specific agenda topic**?

I can help clarify local rules or how to sign up to speak.

[1] <https://www.f3law.com>

[2] <https://firstamendmentcoalition.org>