

January 15, 2015



## **CALTRAIN ADOPTS ELECTRIFICATION PLAN**

In my twelve years as a member of the Caltrain Board of Directors, electrification of the system has been one of my top priorities. Electrification will improve customer service and benefit the environment. This month, the Board marked a major milestone by certifying a Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) and approving an electrification plan.

The Electrification Project is part of an overall Caltrain Modernization Program. In addition to electrifying the corridor between San Francisco and San Jose and purchasing new high-performance electric rail vehicles, there will also be upgrades to the railroad's signal system. Caltrain is implementing advanced safety technology known as Positive Train Control as part of the project.

Getting rid of the current heavy diesel engines will reduce Caltrain's pollutant emissions by 97%. Electrification will also increase ridership by 2040, reducing the daily vehicle miles traveled on our region's roadways by 600,000. This will improve local air quality and help the state meet its greenhouse emission reduction goals.

Electrification is also critical to meeting Caltrain's ever expanding ridership demands. Electric trains are able to speed up and slow down more quickly than diesel engines. This reduces the distance needed between trains, allowing for more frequent service. Weekday service will be restored at Atherton and Burlingame stations, too.

The project will install poles and wires to deliver power to the electrified vehicles. Through the Environmental Impact Report process, Caltrain has adopted mitigation efforts such as alternative pole configurations that could reduce by half the number of trees that were originally slated to be removed. The final report also reflects local public feedback on the locations of key wayside power facilities.

The cost for electrification is projected to be between \$1.47 billion and \$1.53 billion. Electrified service will begin sometime between winter 2020 and spring 2021. To view a video detailing the Caltrain Modernization Program go to <http://peninsulamoves.wordpress.com/2014/02/11/564/>.

As always, I encourage you to contact my office if you have any concerns or are interested in additional information. You can reach me at (408) 299-5040 or via email at [Supervisor.Yeager@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:Supervisor.Yeager@bos.sccgov.org).

## **INCREASED BIKE CAPACITY COMING SOON TO CALTRAIN**

Although electrification is key to Caltrain's long-term ridership needs, the system already faces overcrowding during peak travel times. Late last year, the Caltrain Board of Directors authorized an agreement with Southern California Regional Rail Authority (Metrolink) to buy 16 surplus rail cars to help provide short-term relief. Last week, the Board also directed that those cars to be used to provide more on-board bike capacity.

Caltrain's program to provide space for bicycles on trains has been quite successful. For a number of commuters, suburban homes and offices located along the rail line are too far away from the station or a connecting bus line to make riding Caltrain practical. Bicycles help those commuters make that link. In

fact, the number of passengers bringing bicycles on Caltrain has grown four times faster than overall ridership since 2008.

Caltrain's train sets currently consist of two types of cars: gallery and Bombardier. Each train set has five cars with two equipped for bikes. The older gallery sets can hold a total of 80 bikes, while the Bombardier sets only hold only 48. During peak times, some cyclists find themselves unable to board their desired train.

The 16 Metrolink cars are the Bombardier-style. Adding those cars to the fleet will allow Caltrain to make each train a 6-car set. Each of the Bombardier sets will get an extra bike car, bringing total capacity to 72 bicycles.

Most of the rail cars acquired from Metrolink will require substantial rehabilitation. Certain station platforms may also require upgrades to accommodate the longer train sets. Caltrain expects it could take up to a year to put all of the cars into service, though some may be ready sooner.

To learn more about the Bikes Onboard program and watch an informative video, go to <http://www.caltrain.com/riderinfo/Bicycles.html>.

## **EXPRESSWAY PLAN NEEDS INPUT FROM RESIDENTS**

Over 1.5 million vehicles travel on 62 miles of expressways through 11 cities in Santa Clara County every day. The County wants to hear comments from expressway users and residents about the expressway system as part of the Expressway Plan 2040 project. The plan, expected to be completed in June 2015, will address long range expressway maintenance and improvements for vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists.

More than 50% of County residents travel on expressways every day. Expressways serve our transportation needs by supplementing the area freeways and relieving local streets of commuter traffic. With the improving economy, our expressways have become more congested than ever, and residents have noticed. The Expressway Plan 2040 community meetings give residents a voice in the planning process by sharing their ideas and concerns.

The Expressway Plan 2040 project will provide a long-term plan for maintenance and improvements to the expressway system based on city land use plans, projected 2040 traffic growth and complete streets planning of connected and nearby roadways. The plan will also identify new challenges, and take a fresh look at operational enhancements, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, sound walls, and landscaping.

The County will be holding a series of meetings in January and February focused on Capitol, San Tomas, Lawrence, and Almaden Expressways. Each of the meetings will be held at 6:30 p.m.

January 20 - San Tomas and Lawrence Expressways  
West Valley Branch Library, 1243 San Tomas Aquino Road, San Jose

January 22 - Capitol Expressway  
Seven Trees Community Center, 3590 Cas Drive, San Jose

February 12 - Almaden Expressway  
Almaden Community Center, 6445 Camden Avenue, San Jose

For more information, visit [www.Expressways.info](http://www.Expressways.info).

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2015 HOMELESS CENSUS

The County conducts a census of all homeless residents every two years in order to better understand the nature of homelessness in our community. Information from these counts helps us target resources needed to reduce and end homelessness. The Office of Supportive Housing is currently seeking volunteers to help conduct this year's count.

Volunteers will meet at different sites throughout the county where they will be paired with an expert on the issues of homelessness. Each team will walk or drive designated routes and do a visual count of individuals residing on the streets. Participants will compile this data to get a point-in-time and annual estimate of the number of homeless people in the County.

The event will take place Tuesday, January 27th and Wednesday, January 28th starting at 6 am. Volunteers can pick one of these two days to come, but should expect to spend 4-6 hours volunteering. Adults with cars and the ability to drive are especially needed. Youth under age 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Volunteers are asked to attend a one hour training prior to the count day, which can be done in person at multiple locations or online.

To sign up to volunteer, call (831) 728-1356 or visit [www.surveymonkey.com/s/SantaClara2015VolunteerRegistration](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SantaClara2015VolunteerRegistration). For more information, contact Erin Stanton at the Office of Supportive Housing at [erin.stanton@hhs.sccgov.org](mailto:erin.stanton@hhs.sccgov.org).

## PUBLIC INPUT NEEDED FOR FAIRGROUNDS

Last September, the Board of Supervisors launched the Fairgrounds Community Vision Process. This project involves the collaboration of local community, stakeholders, businesses, and government partners in an effort to identify the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities presented by the 155-acre County Fairgrounds. This February, the public is encouraged to offer ideas and suggestions for the process.

There will be several opportunities to participate during this phase of planning for the Fairgrounds. Residents will be able to make recommendations on all aspects of the fairgrounds, such as County Fair operations and use of underutilized portions of the property. During the month of February, a number of public meetings will be held to gain input from residents. In addition, an online survey has been created in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese for residents to provide input from home.

The first round of public input was completed near the end of 2014. The dates of locations of meetings in the upcoming round are soon to be determined. For more information, visit [www.sccgov.org/sites/faf/cp/mp/fg/Pages/fairgrounds.aspx](http://www.sccgov.org/sites/faf/cp/mp/fg/Pages/fairgrounds.aspx). In the meantime, take the online survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/VisionFairgrounds](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VisionFairgrounds).

## OUR CITY FOREST TREE AMIGO PROGRAM

Our City Forest is a local non-profit organization dedicated to maintaining a healthy, green urban environment. This January, Our City Forest invites community members to join its four-week program, "Tree Amigos." This is a great opportunity to learn how to lead volunteers, properly plant, maintain, and care for common local trees, and become an advocate for Urban Forestry.

The Tree Amigo volunteer program involves 20 hours of planting and tree care training. Graduates of the program gain certification to educate and cultivate urban forestry in the region as official "Tree Amigos." Tree Amigos are required to create and fulfill a Service Agreement of attending 10 events within a year's time. These events include coaching volunteers in planting and maintaining trees, helping run the community tree nursery, teaching elementary school classes, conducting grassroots outreach, and more.

Tree Amigos are also invited to Our City Forest community gatherings and social events.

No prior experience is necessary to take part in this program. The first class begins Wednesday, January 21. For more information and to sign up, visit <http://ourcityforest.org/programs/treamigo>.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **2015 Freedom Train**

**What:** Join the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Association of Santa Clara Valley for train ride commemorating the 50th anniversary of the civil rights leader's famed march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. The chartered Caltrain will depart from the San Jose Diridon Caltrain Station at 9:45 a.m. and express to the San Francisco Caltrain Station. There is no special southbound service. However, Freedom Train tickets will be accepted on southbound trains departing San Francisco after 1 p.m. that day. This will be the final Freedom Train event. Tickets are \$10 each, and are expected to sell out. Tickets can be purchased at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/937736>.

**When:** Monday, January 19 at 8:30 a.m.

**Where:** San Jose Diridon Station, 65 Cahill Street

**More Information:** Visit <http://scvmlk.org/freedom-train/>.

### **Ash Kickers Program**

**What:** Breathe California is offering its Ash Kickers Quit-Smoking Classes to all residents who are looking to kick the habit. The class is led by a trained facilitator who offers resources and strategies for permanent quitting. For those who struggle with smoking, this program is a great opportunity to start living healthier in 2015.

**Where:** 1469 Park Avenue, San Jose

**When:** Tuesdays, January 20 through February 17 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**More Information:** Call (408) 998-5865 or visit [www.lungsrus.org](http://www.lungsrus.org).

### **Breast Cancer Group**

**What:** Cancer CAREpoint is hosting two support groups for breast cancer patients and survivors. All those who are experiencing or have experienced any stage of breast cancer are invited. To see a full calendar of the programs offered by Cancer CAREpoint, visit [www.cancercarepoint.org/](http://www.cancercarepoint.org/).

**When:** Wednesday, January 21 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. and from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** 2505 Samaritan Drive, Bldg 400, Suite 402, San Jose

**More Information:** Email [Sheryl@cancercarepoint.org](mailto:Sheryl@cancercarepoint.org) or call 408-402-6611.

### **Public Comment on Vector Control Draft Environmental Evaluation Report**

**What:** The Santa Clara County Vector Control District is holding a series of community meetings to receive public comments about its draft Environmental Evaluation Report. The report provides a comprehensive analysis of the Vector Control District's current operations and activities and their potential impact on the environment. Although the District's operations are exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the County is voluntarily seeking the public feedback on Vector Control activities. This draft also lays the groundwork for any future changes in operations which would require further impact analysis. The draft Environmental Evaluation will be available for public review at <http://www.SCCgov.org/sites/vector/Pages/Environmental-Evaluation.aspx>. The comment period will be open to residents interested in submitting written comments or questions, until February 28, 2015.

**When:** Wednesday, January 21 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**Where:** Lakewood Park - MU room, 834 Lakechime Dr., Sunnyvale

**More Information:** Email [vectorinfo@deh.sccgov.org](mailto:vectorinfo@deh.sccgov.org).

### **Engage(dot)Next 2.0**

**What:** Silicon Valley Creates is hosting its second annual, day-long, marketing conference. This event is focused on tools and strategies that will help you engage next generation audiences. With a theme of Develop, Create, Share, and Measure, this conference will feature expert speakers and hands-on sessions focusing on storytelling and engaging audiences through video, photography and blogging. The cost is \$20, lunch included.

**Where:** Mexican Heritage Plaza, 1700 Alum Rock Ave, San Jose

**When:** Thursday, January 22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**More Information:** Email [josh@svcreates.org](mailto:josh@svcreates.org).

### **Two Decades of Friendship Movie Festival**

**What:** The Santa Clara County/Hsinchu County, Taiwan, Republic of China (ROC) Sister County Commission invites you to attend the Two Decades of Friendship Movie Festival, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Commission. Festival includes an opening ceremony, light lunch, and a film screening of A Year in the Clouds and Touch of the Light. Cost is \$10 per attendee.

**Where:** County Government Center, 70 West Hedding St. San Jose

**When:** Saturday, January 24 at 10 a.m.

**More Information:** Call (408) 299-5115.

### **Bird Friendly Gardening Workshop**

**What:** The Guadalupe River Park Conservancy invites residents to learn about native, bird friendly plants. Professional gardener Sheri Bohan will instruct the course and leave students with the tools necessary to create a garden that birds will love to visit. Pre-registration is required, and space is limited.

**When:** Saturday, January 24 from 10 a.m. to noon

**Where:** GRPC Visitor & Education Center, 438 Coleman Avenue, San Jose

**More Information:** Call (408) 298-7657 or visit <http://www.grpg.org>.

### **Build, Learn, Create: STEAM Activities for Kids**

**What:** Children in grades K-5 are invited to explore and create at Campbell Library with science, technology, art and math projects. This is a great way for kids to learn in a fun and creatively stimulating setting. No pre-registration is required.

**When:** Monday, January 26 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

**Where:** Campbell Library Story Alcove, 77 Harrison Ave.

**More Information:** Call (408) 866-1991 or visit [www.sccl.org](http://www.sccl.org).

### **As You Like It presented by the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival**

**What:** All are invited to enjoy William Shakespeare's classic comedy focusing on love, loss and redemption. The play's thought-provoking family dynamics and the famous "All the world's a stage..." speech are sure to delight audiences of all ages. There will also be walk-on roles where volunteers can get into the act.

**When:** Saturday, January 31 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm

**Where:** Campbell Library, 77 Harrison Ave.

**More Information:** Call (408) 866-1991 or visit [www.sccl.org](http://www.sccl.org).

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*This is an informative newsletter designed to keep you up-to-date on issues that I am working on, local updates, events in District 4, and County resources. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please hit the "reply" button and put the word "remove" in the body of the email. To receive a text-only version of the newsletter, please hit the "reply" button and put the words "text only" in the body of the email. To change the email address where you receive your newsletter, please hit the "reply" button and indicate the old and new email addresses in the body of the email. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send an e-mail to [supervisor.yeager@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:supervisor.yeager@bos.sccgov.org) with the subject: "Add."*