



COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

July 23, 2015

Jim Hartnett, CEO
 Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board
 P.O. Box 3006
 San Carlos, CA 94070-1306

Dear Mr. Hartnett:

The San Mateo County Commission on Disabilities (CoD) wishes to express our concern about recommendations to eliminate accessible restrooms onboard the new CalTrain cars as part of the CalTrain Electrification/Modernization Project. These recommendations do not take into consideration the needs of riders with disabilities. If approved, not having accessible restrooms onboard will place an undue hardship on riders with disabilities who rely on CalTrain to meet their transportation needs. Before the decision is made, we respectfully request the Joint Power Board to consider the following:

- A) There are a very limited number of accessible restrooms available at current CalTrain stations. (Diridon, Millbrae and 4th & Townsend)
- B) Travel time along the CalTrain Corridor can take up to over 1 hour or longer.
- C) Many people with disabilities often use other modes of public transportation throughout the Bay Area (ie., bus, paratransit and BART) to connect with CalTrain, which is added to their travel time to reach their final destinations.
- D) CalTrain delays (which are known to be lengthy) along with delays within the other modes of connecting public transportation can significantly pro-long the amount of time riders with disabilities spend without having accessible restrooms available.

Based upon these and many other reasons, the CoD feels that the recommendations to eliminate the restrooms on the new CalTrains cars are unreasonable. These recommendations are certainly inconsistent with CalTrain's reputation of providing customer friendly service in assuring that riders with disabilities and others have a positive and comfortable experience while riding CalTrain. If you or the members of the Joint Powers Board have any questions related to our concerns, please contact our Staff Liaison, Craig McCulloh at (650) 573-2480 or via email: cmcculloh@smcgov.org Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susy Castoria, President

Cc: Honorable Carole Groom and Adrienne Tissier, Members, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

Lisa Mancini, Director, San Mateo County Aging and Adult Services

Aging and Adult Services Division

Lisa Mancini, Director

Board of Supervisors: • Carole Groom • Don Horsley • Dave Pine • Warren Slocum • Adrienne Tissier

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