



Town of Atherton

91 Ashfield Road
Atherton, California 94027
Phone 650-752-0500
Fax 650-688-6528

January 2, 2018

Michael Burns, Interim Chief Officer
Caltrain Planning and Modernization
2121 S. El Camino Real, Suite 300
San Mateo, CA 94403

Subject: PCEP Overhead Catenary System (OCS) Pole Design Preference

Dear Mr. Burns:

At the December 20, 2017 Atherton City Council meeting, the City Council discussed the proposed double-track cantilever OCS pole system for portions of the Atherton rail corridor where centerline pole alignment is not feasible. Members of Caltrain staff attended the December 20 meeting. The purpose of this letter is to provide formal follow-up from that meeting.

On December 20, the City Council advised Caltrain that the Town is formally opposed to the installation of a double-track cantilever OCS pole system anywhere along the Atherton rail corridor and requests that Caltrain only install single-track cantilever poles up to the maximum height of 35 feet. The Town understands that the single-track cantilever poles will result in the removal of 1 additional tree (a Silver Dollar Eucalyptus) and require pruning less than 25% for 11 additional trees. However, the Town strongly believes the 45'6" double cantilever pole heights will have much greater visual and aesthetic impacts for the Town and nearby residents.

Accordingly, the Town respectfully requests that the current design be changed and single-track pole cantilever OCS poles be utilized within the Town of Atherton. Caltrain design team staff has indicated that modifying the current design may have detrimental cost and schedule implications. The Town is interested in the specific project impacts as well as the process and timeline for Caltrain to consider and evaluate our request. Further, at the December 20 meeting, Caltrain staff advised they would attend the Council's January 17 Meeting to advise of these impacts as well as provide the Town with design materials and opportunity for feedback on pole aesthetic options within the Atherton Rail Station.

Sincerely,

Cary Wiest, Mayor
Town of Atherton

cc: Atherton City Council Members
George Rodericks, City Manager