



June 21, 2022

California Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
ATTN: Alice Busching Reynolds, President

Re: June 15, 2022, Beaumont Incident involving Union Pacific Railroad

Dear President Reynolds,

The City of Beaumont is located in Riverside County, approximately 30 miles east of San Bernardino, where Interstate 10 meets with Highway 60 and State Route 79. We are writing to you to request that you investigate a Union Pacific Railroad incident that occurred in our city on Wednesday, June 15, 2022.

The City of Beaumont Police Department was notified that a train was stopped on the tracks at approximately 2:48p.m. Within one-minute of receiving that call, police dispatch contacted the emergency number for Union Pacific Railroad to notify them of the stopped train. It is standard practice for our agency to communicate with the railroad in this manner, regarding issues with railcars or any other incidents affecting the railway within the City of Beaumont.

At the time of our call to Union Pacific Railroad, we were told they were unaware of any issues with trains in our area and would attempt to get in touch with the train operators. While we were waiting for additional information from Union Pacific, the streets became severely congested, and our dispatch center began to receive numerous calls reporting congested traffic on area streets. Officers were dispatched to determine where the train was stopped, and which areas of the railway were impacted. It was discovered the train was blocking traffic at three locations: Pennsylvania Avenue at the I10 Freeway, California Avenue, near Luis Estrada and Viele Avenue, also near Luis Estrada.

The blockage, in addition to preplanned freeway off-ramp closures from Cal Trans, effectively created only two options for residents to move around the blocked railway. In response to the severe congestion some of our officers were directed to position themselves on the south end of the city to respond to 911 or other high priority calls. The remaining officers on duty were responding to other calls for service within the City, including incidents related to the traffic issues being caused by the train being stopped on the tracks.

At approximately 5:00p.m. and having very little information from Union Pacific about the nature of the blockage and the expected duration, the Police Department began calling for extra resources to respond to intersections in the city to assist with traffic control.



While the situation was unfolding, the Police Department initiated an Incident Command System to evaluate the situation and determine routes in which traffic could be directed to move some of the congestion out of the area. We were also attempting to contact local railroad representatives to get additional information about the situation and estimates on when the train could be cleared.

At approximately 7:30 p.m. after numerous calls to Union Pacific Railroad for updates, we were notified a crew was on site and would be moving the train within 30 minutes, that timeline then moved into over an hour as we were told the crews had discovered the train had been tampered with and there was another mechanical issue that prevented the train from being moved yet again. Finally, at approximately 9:00 p.m. the Beaumont Police Department was notified the train had been moved and the intersections were clear.

This incident and the lack of response from Union Pacific Railroad created an extreme public safety issue and Union Pacific should be held accountable. Our residents should not suffer at the hands of Union Pacific's inability to effectively manage their railway operations.

We ask for your assistance and respectfully request that you investigate this incident. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Lloyd White  
Mayor



June 21, 2022

United States Department of Transportation  
Federal Railroad Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590  
ATTN: Amit Bose, Administrator

Re: June 15, 2022, Beaumont Incident involving Union Pacific Railroad

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