

ELECTRIC TRAINS FAQs

WHAT IS AN ELECTRIC MULTIPLE UNIT (EMU)?

An EMU refers to passenger railcars that are electrically self-propelled, rather than pulled or pushed by a locomotive. EMUs have the ability to couple multiple units into a trainset, with cab cars placed at the ends from which the engineer operates the train. The improved acceleration and stopping performance of EMUs is made possible by having the propulsion equipment distributed throughout the trainset. This provides shorter trip times over diesel or electric locomotive-hauled trains, especially when frequent stops are made. As a commuter rail that provides local service Caltrain makes frequent stops, making EMUs the ideal train type for Caltrain.

WHY WERE EMUs SELECTED FOR CALTRAIN SERVICE?

By electrifying, Caltrain will modernize the system and make it possible to increase service levels while offering several advantages in comparison with existing diesel power use. The performance advantages of electrified trainsets will enable more frequent and/or faster train service to more riders and will provide increased capacity for the system. Electrified operations will also provide improved regional air quality while reducing costs for the agency.

WHEN WILL THE ELECTRIC TRAINS BE PLACED INTO SERVICE?

The first electric trainsets are scheduled to arrive in 2019. Following reliability and safety testing, the first passenger service on the new trains is scheduled to begin in 2020/2021.

HOW MANY ELECTRIC TRAINS IS CALTRAIN PURCHASING?

Caltrain is purchasing 96 cars which will provide a total of 16 six-car trainsets. Caltrain has the option to purchase an additional 96 cars at a later date. These additional cars can be used to make more trainsets of various lengths.

WHAT WILL BE THE CAPACITY OF THE ELECTRIC TRAINS?

To learn more about the capacity improvements of the Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project, [click here](#).

WILL THE NEW ELECTRIC TRAINS BE MADE IN AMERICA?

Yes, the trains will be built in Utah by Stadler US Inc. The Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project (PCEP) will create over **9,600 direct and indirect jobs across the United States**.

WILL THERE BE A BATHROOM ONBOARD?

Yes, each trainset will have one accessible bathroom onboard.

WHAT WILL THE ELECTRIC TRAINS LOOK LIKE?

Caltrain will be engaging riders and the public on several key design components, including seat colors, bike stands and luggage racks. The colors of the exterior, walls and floors will be selected based on operational factors, including maintenance, durability and longevity.

WILL THE NEW ELECTRIC TRAINS BE COMPATIBLE WITH LEVEL BOARDING IN THE FUTURE?

Level boarding is a future goal of Caltrain which will require additional funding and planning. The new electric trains will not preclude level boarding at a future date.

WHAT SIGNAGE WILL BE ONBOARD?

The electric trains will have both interior and exterior electronic signs to provide customers with relevant information. The content and layout of the signs will be determined as design advances.

WILL THERE BE WIFI ONBOARD THE NEW TRAINS?

No, however, the electric trains will be WiFi ready should Caltrain decide to implement WiFi in the future.

HOW FAST WILL THE ELECTRIC TRAINS TRAVEL?

The new electric trains will continue to operate at speeds up to 79 mph with the capability to reach higher speed operations in the future.

WILL ALL THE CARS BE ADA ACCESSIBLE?

Yes, all cars will meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and will be accessible to persons using wheelchairs and other mobility devices.

HOW WILL PASSENGERS USING A WHEELCHAIR OR MOBILITY DEVICE BOARD THE NEW ELECTRIC TRAINS?

Passengers using a wheelchair or mobility device will be able to use the mini-high wheelchair ramp or the mobile platform wheelchair lift to board the new electric trains.

WILL THERE BE SPECIFIED BICYCLE CARS?

Yes, there will be two bike cars per trainset.

HOW WILL BICYCLES BE STORED ONBOARD?

Caltrain will be engaging riders and the public in selecting the final onboard bicycle storage options.

WHAT WILL BE THE BICYCLE CAPACITY FOR THE NEW ELECTRIC TRAINS?

Caltrain is striving for a seat to bike ratio of 8:1; however, bicycle capacity onboard the new trains will be dependent on the final storage option the bike community and public selects.

WILL THERE BE ELECTRICAL OUTLETS ONBOARD FOR RIDERS?

Yes, electrical outlets will be conveniently placed at the seats for riders to charge their phones, laptops and other electronic devices.