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Subject: CPUC Enhances Safety, Implements First In Nation Comprehensive Transit Safety Regulations: CPUC Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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Docket #: R.09-01-020

## **CPUC ENHANCES SAFETY, IMPLEMENTS FIRST IN NATION COMPREHENSIVE TRANSIT SAFETY REGULATIONS**

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 31, 2013 - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) today established a set of new regulations to improve rail transit worker safety on California's public transit systems. This decision makes California the first state in the nation to adopt such comprehensive transit safety rules.

The decision adopts new rules in General Order 175 and reflects years of discussion, debate, and collaboration in this proceeding and amongst California's rail transit industry experts and stakeholders. Due to the fatal BART tragedy that occurred on October 19, 2013, the decision adopts more protective interim safeguards and leaves the proceeding open so that the CPUC may further examine and integrate any necessary enhancements following the current BART accident investigation.

Today's decision will strengthen safety rules to protect roadway workers by adopting a series of strict requirements on rail transit agencies such as: 1) implementing a safety training program with a series of strict requirements to ensure that workers are well-versed in the methods required to work safely and effectively, 2) maintaining written flagging procedures to enhance safety on railway tracks, 3) ensuring industry standard personal protective clothing for workers, and 4) ordering the rail transit agencies to research and plan/implement additional roadway worker technologies such as early warning alarm technology, back-up alarms, and positive train control.

"General Order 175 exemplifies the shared commitment and dedication to roadway worker safety and protection by all those who worked tirelessly to develop this important General Order, which sets a solid foundation and framework to promote roadway worker safety in California," said Commissioner Carla J. Peterman, the lead Commissioner for this proceeding.

"Safety is our priority and we are mindful of the need to examine and improve our rules and regulations in order to better ensure safety," said CPUC President Michael R. Peevey. "Today's decision improves

existing rail transit safety rules for roadway workers and leaves the door open to possibly more rule changes pending the outcome of the investigation into the tragic BART fatalities of October 19<sup>th</sup>.”

“I applaud our safety staff and Commissioner Peterman for their swift action in proposing additional safeguards to General Order 175 after the recent BART tragic accident,” said Commissioner Mike Florio. “I am reminded by these recent events that we have a continued responsibility to not only assure compliance with current safety regulations in all industries but that we must also continually strive to improve those regulations to make them more effective. My goal in this respect is to continue this path of being more proactive and less reactive about safety issues.”

“This General Order resulting from a collaborative process with stakeholders adopts rules intended to protect rail transit workers and also allows us to quickly add even more protective interim safeguards in light of recent incidents,” said Commissioner Catherine J.K. Sandoval. “I look forward to hearing an update next year about the new early warning technologies and hearing that all rail transit agencies are reporting their near misses in a timely manner.”

Said Commissioner Mark J. Ferron, “In addition to the protections proposed a month ago, today we adopt interim rules to address concerns raised by the recent BART accident that resulted in two fatalities. We will re-visit the interim rules once we know the cause of the accident to be sure that the rules are appropriate to better safeguard roadway workers.”

The Proposed Decision voted on is available at  
<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M080/K302/80302726.pdf>.

For more information on the CPUC, please visit [www.cpuc.ca.gov](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov).

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