

Emails from Ron Bernal to SJPA ED Stacey Mortensen 05-23

**From:** Rowland Bernal *EMAIL ADDRESS REDACTED*  
**Date:** May 5, 2023 at 8:22:06 PM PDT  
**To:** Stacey Mortensen *EMAIL ADDRESS REDACTED*  
**Subject: Re: March 24 Board Meeting item 9 Antioch/Pittsburg Passenger Stop Decommissioning**

Good evening Ms. Mortensen,

I had a good conversation with Tamika Smith of your staff on Tuesday to discuss my concerns

On May 1, 2023, at 9:02 PM, Stacey Mortensen *EMAIL ADDRESS REDACTED* wrote:

Mr. Bernal,  
My sincere apologies for not catching this email and I am so glad you followed up. I must confess I there has been a lot of confusion over the years with the involvement of the City, Amtrak, Caltrans and the San Joaquin Authority. My understanding from the various parties was that the City had reluctantly agreed to the closure if the new landscaping and improvements (associated with the building removal) was not maintained and passenger and train crew safety issues did not improve. Somehow that did get attributed to you over the last couple years and if that is not accurate, I most certainly want to correct the record. I am an eastern Contra Costa County native, so I have a continuing fondness for the area.

The security and safety issues for the passengers and Amtrak train crews are the utmost consideration at the moment. The conductors have to adopt a special safety protocol for opening doors at the Antioch station that we have not had to deploy anywhere else. Tamika Smith is now our Director of Passenger Services and before that she was with Amtrak for 8 years.

She is our point of contact on this matter and I will check in with her tomorrow.

Our next San Joaquin Authority meeting is on May 19th at 10:00am in Stockton. I can make sure you get the meeting details.

Thanks again for reaching out.

Stacey Mortensen

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Rowland Bernal *EMAIL ADDRESS REDACTED*  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 12:14 PM  
**To:** Stacey Mortensen *EMAIL ADDRESS REDACTED*  
**Subject:** Re: March 24 Board Meeting item 9 Antioch/Pittsburg Passenger Stop Decommissioning

Good afternoon Ms. Mortenson,

I haven't seen a response to my March 29th email. Would you please provide me the courtesy of acknowledging the receipt of that email and provide a response to my requests?

I would also like to know when the next Board Meeting will be held as I intend to attend and address the Board.

Thank you.

Ron Bernal  
*PHONE # REDACTED*

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 29, 2023, at 9:09 AM, Rowland Bernal *EMAIL ADDRESS REDACTED* wrote:

Good morning Ms. Mortensen,

My name is Ron Bernal and I'm a former and retired City Manager of Antioch. At your March 24 Board meeting, agenda item 9 had a statement in the staff report that I approved decommissioning the Antioch/Pittsburg stop due to homeless issues. This is an inaccurate statement.

During my time working on the project to remove the buildings at the stop, there was never discussion about decommissioning the stop. The work done by the Authority was always intended to remove buildings that had exceeded their usefulness and create a plaza setting for passengers. The goal was always to improve Antioch's stop to make it an improved transportation opportunity for our residents and the region.

I understand if the Board feels the stop does not serve the purposes of the Authority any longer but do not want to be improperly included in the list of reasons the stop is being decommissioned.

I think you can also understand the absurdity of the idea of a City Manager having the authority to decommission something as important as a passenger stop which involves millions of dollars to establish (e.g. Oakley's new stop). At the very least, there should have been a resolution from the Antioch City Council to approve such an important and impactful decision. I would not have knowingly made taken such an action upon myself in the role as the city's administrator.

I would appreciate it if you could send me any written documentation that shows I discussed or approved decommissioning this stop. I am also requesting the misstatement be publicly corrected both in writing and at the next Board Meeting.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Ron Bernal