



CPUC Public Agenda 3293

Thursday, May 10, 2012, 9:00 a.m.
2600 Fresno Street, Room 2097, Fresno



Commissioners:
Michael R. Peevey
Timothy Alan Simon
Michel Peter Florio
Catherine J.K. Sandoval
Mark J. Ferron

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Fresno County Rail Safety



Michelle Cooke
Transitional Director

Consumer Protection and Safety Division

California Public Utilities Commission

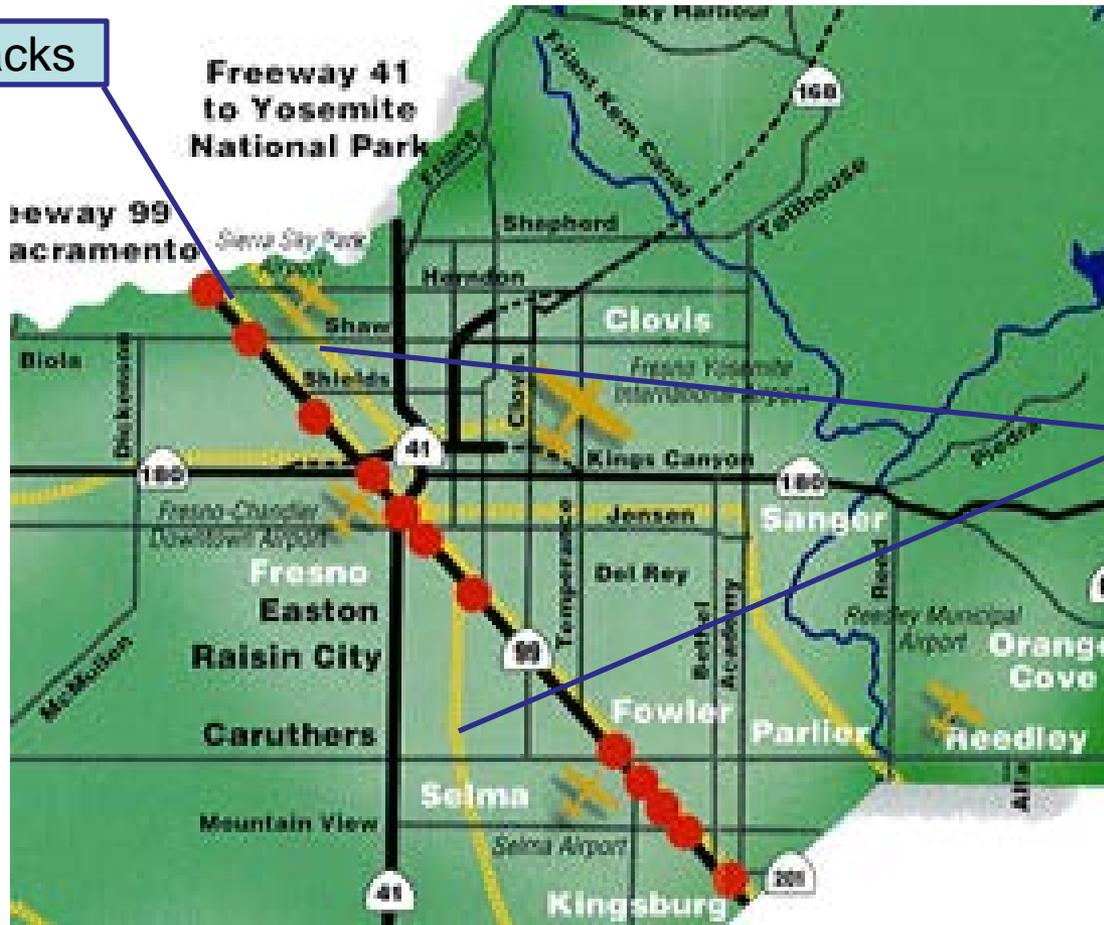
May 2012





Fresno Area Railroads

UPRR Tracks



Burlington
Northern Santa
Fe Railway





Fresno County –Quiet Zones

- The City of Fresno has two Quiet Zones
- Quiet Zone 1 - Q0910001- is along the BNSF mainline with a 1.8 mile track distance and includes:
 - Ventura Street, Tulare Street, Mariposa Street (City Hall Pedestrian Crossing), Fresno Street, Divisadero Street, McKenzie Avenue, Belmont Avenue, Olive Avenue, and Hammond Avenue.





Fresno City Quiet Zones (continued)

- Quiet Zone 2 - Q1009003 – is also along the BNSF line with 4.32 miles distance
- The quiet zone includes:
 - Figarden Drive, West Avenue, Ashlan Avenue, Fruit Avenue, Palm Avenue





Fresno County High Speed Rail?

- This week the HSR Authority Board selected the proposed route for the Merced-Fresno section of the HSR project.
- The Merced to Fresno high speed train section is about 65 miles long and will follow the “Hybrid” alternative.
- The “Hybrid” parallels the Union Pacific Railroad tracks and State Route 99 between Merced and Fresno.





Fresno County High Speed Rail?

- To avoid impacts to Downtown Madera, the alignment travels east of Madera and parallels the existing BNSF corridor.
- The Board also selected the Downtown Merced Station location, and the Downtown Fresno Station at the Mariposa Street location, as part of the HSR system.
- The CPUC and its Staff have no specific preference for any particular route, and will work with the Authority, freight railroads and local governments to assure the safety of the HSR system and existing freight systems and crossings, irrespective of the route selected.





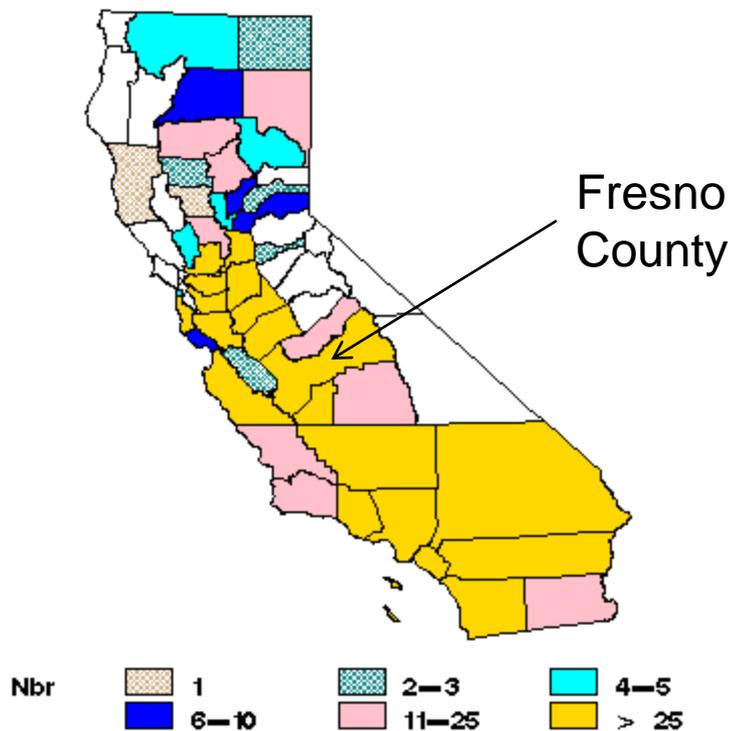
At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing Incidents

- At-Grade Highway Rail Crossing collisions generally result from:
 - Road User (driver, pedestrian, bicyclist) inattentiveness/distractions
 - Driving around activated gates and warning devices
 - Queuing (stopping) on tracks when traffic is congested.
 - Passive/Private crossings (no gates or flashing lights)





HIGHWAY—RAIL INCIDENTS FOR CALIFORNIA, January 2001 TO December 2011
RAILROAD: ALL



CALIFORNIA, By County

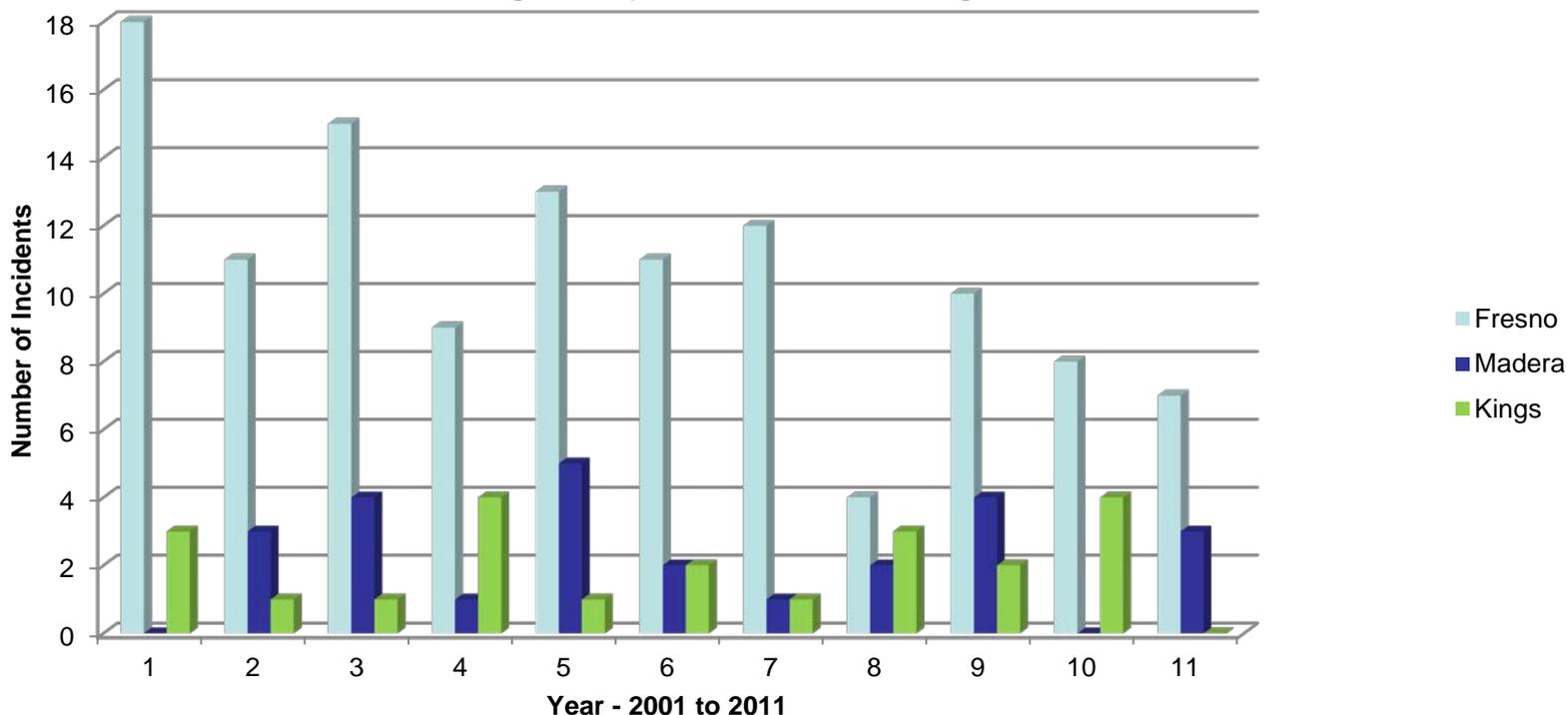
In the last 10 years the Fresno County experienced 100 highway-rail crossing incidents.





Fresno, Madera and Kings Counties Statistics

At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing Incidents



The number of crossing incidents are decreasing.





At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing Incidents in Fresno

- Although incident rates are trending down, between 2007 and 2009 there was a spike in pedestrian accidents and fatalities at crossings in Fresno, including several school children and young adults.
- CPUC teamed with railroad companies and City representatives to expand the presence of Operation Lifesaver in the Fresno area.
- The educational efforts appear to be driving the numbers down as Operation Lifesaver presentations are occurring more frequently and directed at the target audience.
- Remember, the crossbuck at each crossing means yield to the train! Pay attention to the railroad tracks and look both ways before proceeding across the crossing.





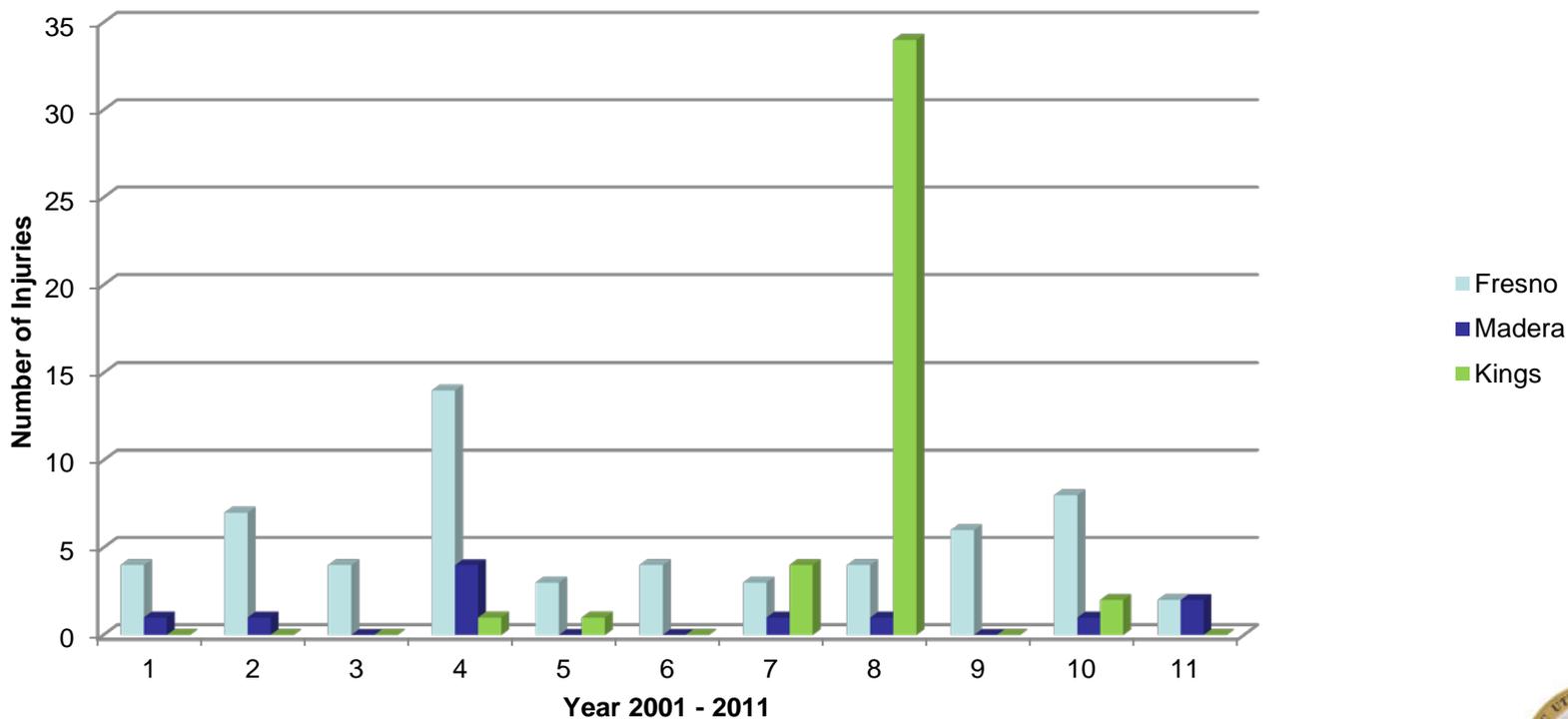
Fresno, Madera and Kings Counties Statistics (cont.)





Fresno, Madera and Kings Counties Statistics (cont.)

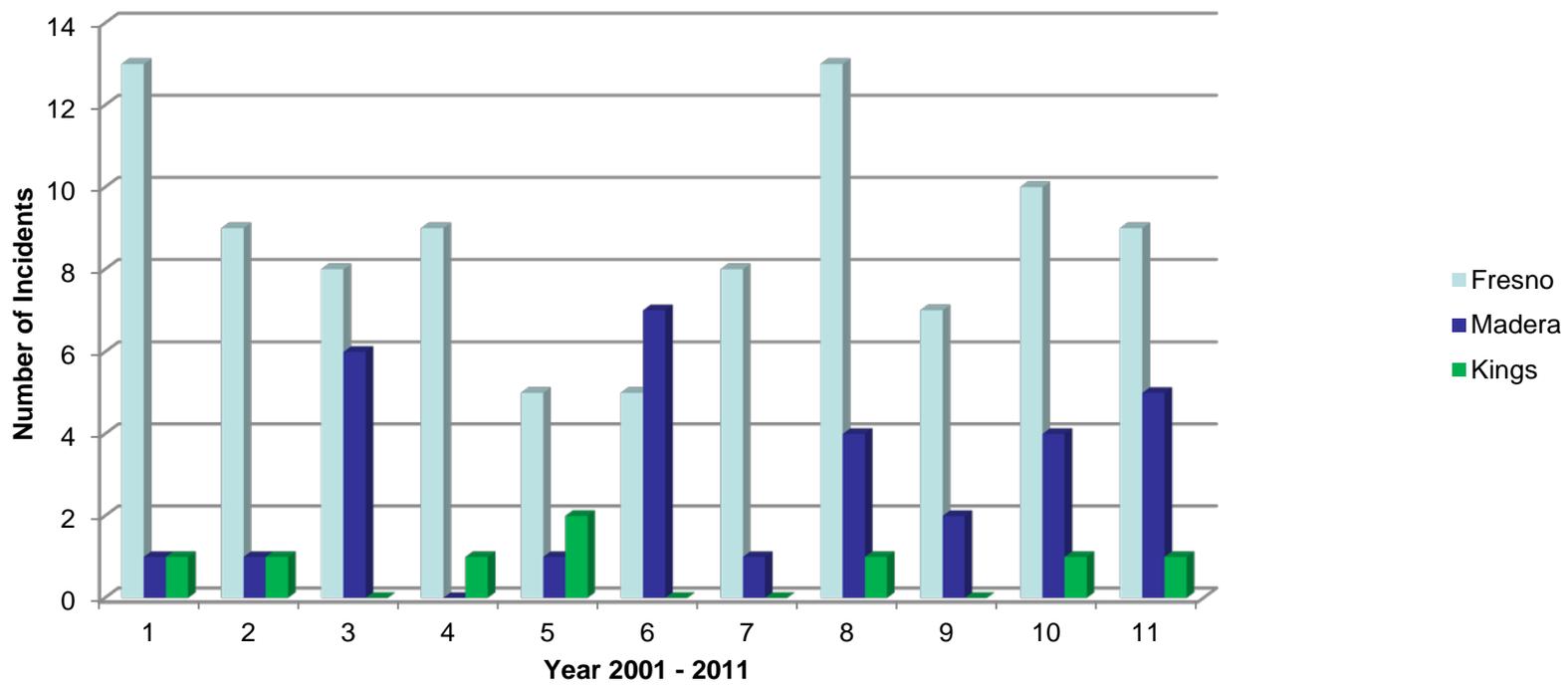
At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing Injuries





Fresno, Madera and Kings Counties Statistics (cont.)

Right of Way Incidents





Actions Taken by CPUC

- Support local agencies and railroads by nominating at-grade crossings for improvements under the Section 130 Program
- Support projects nominated by local agencies and railroads for grade separation with the Section 190 Program
- Review at-grade crossing collisions and recommend safety improvements (install/upgrade active warning devices, signs, markings, preemption, medians, channelization, public education (Operation Lifesaver) etc.)
- Participate with the Fresno Rail Safety Coalition in efforts to improve safety in the City and County of Fresno
- Review requests for Quiet Zones

