



CPUC Public Agenda 3274
Thursday, May 26, 2011, 9:00 a.m.
505 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco



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

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CPSD Safety Report



Paul King
Deputy Director, CPSD

California Public Utilities Commission

May 26, 2011





Presentation Overview

Staff Vigilance on Winter Rail Safety Issues, Security

Railroad weather damage, Winter of '10 - '11

- Donner Pass – March 2011
- Feather River Canyon route – February 2011
- Coast routes – November 2010, March 2011
- Yuma route – December 2010

Spring snowpack and runoff issues

Recent security issues





UPRR locomotives and snow spreader near Shed 10, Donner Pass, March 24, 2011



Spreader and locomotives stuck in snow, March 24, 2011



UPRR rotary snow plow, March 2011





UPRR rotary snow plow





UPRR rotary snow plow in action













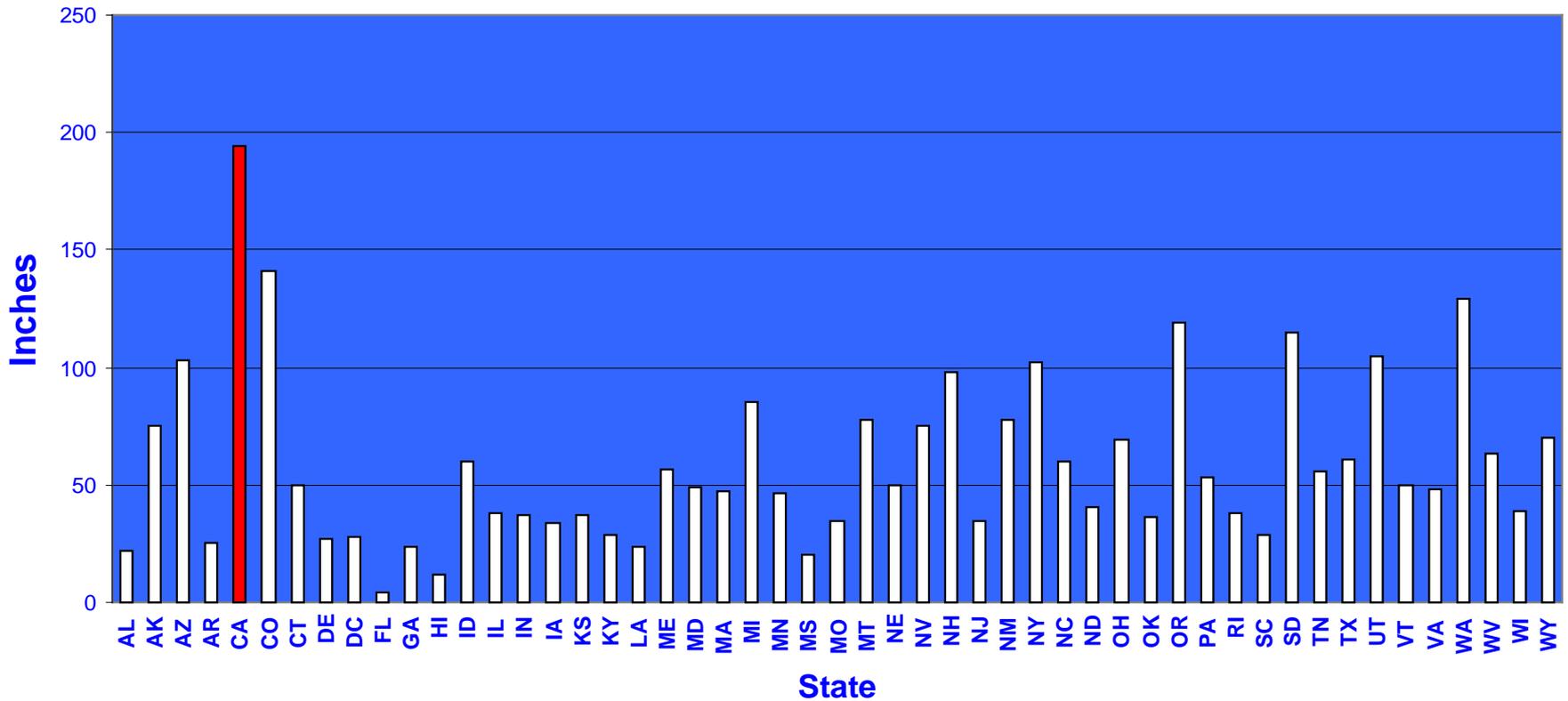


One track in service, weather clearing





Maximum Single-Storm Snowfall Total By State: 1880 - 2010





**Southern Pacific
Railroad's
*City of San
Francisco***

**January 13 – 19,
1952**

**196 passengers,
20 crew members
stranded for three
days**

**Two deaths
attributed to
rescue operations**





January 15, 1952





January 16, 1952





January 19, 1952



Railroad history on Donner Pass cites even more severe winters than in 1952.

Of particular note was the winter of 1889-1890.

Reports state that 13 trains with 900 passengers were snowbound during that winter.

At least 3,500 men shoveled snow from the tracks, taking almost a month to fully restore service.





UPRR Feather River Canyon – Belden main and siding, March 23, 2011



Slide covered the siding and the main track.

Main track out of service for a few hours.

Siding out of service for over one week.

Signal house and cantilevered signal destroyed.





Belden slide, March 23, 2011





UPRR/Amtrak Coast Route north of Santa Barbara Roadbed “slip-out” March 23, 2011





Roadbed integrity compromised





Track structure and ballast not affected





Santa Barbara Subdivision, Nov. 27, 2010, Emma Wood Beach





Comparison to 1955 conditions





Yuma Subdivision, December 21, 2010, Whitewater River, Coachella Valley





Spring Snowpack and Runoff Issues

Snow water content as of May 24, 2011, as a percentage of the normal for this date:

- North section (Trinity-Feather-Truckee): 330%
- Central section: (Yuba-Tahoe-Merced-Walker): 242%

Historical vulnerability – Feather River Canyon, January 1997

- Record runoff washed out several sections of roadbed.
- Track left hanging in mid-air near the Rock Creek trestle.
- Train stranded near Belden, crew evacuated.
- Route out of service from January 2 through March 3 for major rebuild.





Recent Security Issues

Recent newspaper articles regarding rail threats.

CPSD rail security activities.

- Rail transit
- Railroads

