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## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 PROMENADE CIRCLE, SUITE 115  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834



June 10, 2010

File Number: G.10-05-002

Cary Keaten  
City Manager  
City of Lathrop  
390 Towne Centre Drive  
Lathrop, CA 95330

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Louise Avenue Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 001TTL-92.66 (Formerly 001D-92.66), DOT No. 752782S in the City of Lathrop, San Joaquin County**

Dear Mr. Keaten:

This refers to your letter dated April 20, 2010 and received by us on May 11, 2010, requesting authorization pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B to alter an at-grade highway-rail crossing of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) track in the City of Lathrop, San Joaquin County. The crossing is identified as Louise Avenue Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 001TTL-92.66 (Formerly 001D-92.66), DOT No. 752782S.

The crossing is currently a single track crossing equipped with two Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices. At this location, Louise Avenue is a two-lane road running east/west. UPRR currently runs approximately 4 trains per day at 79 mph at the crossing.

The City states in its GO88-B request letter that "The road widening will improve traffic flow and safety for the motoring public. The crossing is located on a two lane road that is highly traveled during peak commute hours. Traffic congestion and associated vehicle queues across the track will be reduced through the addition of one lane in each direction. The installation of a concrete median is intended to reduce the possibility of motorists driving around the lowered Commission Standard No. 9-A gate arms."

The proposed alteration as indicated in the request letter and/or shown in the attachments shall consist of:

- Widening Louise Avenue from existing two 12' lanes with 3' shoulders to four 12' lanes with 3' shoulders in each direction.
- Installing one foot wide, 100 foot long raised medians on both sides of the crossing.
- Replacing the existing Standard 9 warning devices with new Standard 9-A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning devices.
- Installing new pavement markings and signage including W10-1 advance warning signs on each approach to the crossing.

- Installing no parking signs throughout the widened area of Louise Avenue.
- The new crossing surface shall be concrete panels.

Staff has investigated the City's request, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City and UPRR are in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, you may proceed with the improvements as described in your request letter and attachments, and summarized above.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with section 8A.05, Temporary Traffic Control Zones, of the CA MUTCD, published by the California Department of Transportation.

All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and CA MUTCD.

This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended [California Public Resources Code 21084].

This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within two years of the date of this letter. Upon written request to this office, the time to complete the project may be extended. Any written request for a time extension must include concurrence letters by involved parties in support of the time extension. If an extension is requested, the Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, the UPRR shall notify RCES that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G titled *Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossings and Separations*. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the CPUC web site Form G page at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/formg>. This report may be submitted electronically to [rces@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:rces@cpuc.ca.gov) as outlined on the web page.

If you have any questions, please contact David Stewart at (916) 928-2515 or [atm@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:atm@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Daren Gilbert, Supervisor  
Rail Crossings Engineering Section  
Consumer Protection and Safety Division

C: Jim Smith, UPRR