

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 PROMENADE CIRCLE, SUITE 115
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834



November 18, 2010

File Number: G.10-11-001
City of Oakland, County of Alameda

Tanya Boyce
City of Oakland – Redevelopment Agency
250 Frank Ogawa Plaza
Oakland, CA 94605

Re: **General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Modify Two At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossings in the City of Oakland, Alameda County**
66th Avenue, CPUC Crossing No. 004-11.60, DOT No. 834035F
69th Avenue, CPUC Crossing No. 004-11.90, DOT No. 834036M

Dear Ms. Boyce:

This refers to your letter, dated October 26, 2010, and received by us on November 1, 2010, requesting authorization, pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the existing at-grade Highway-Rail crossings of the Union Pacific Railroad Company's (UPRR) Oakland Subdivision track at 66th Avenue and at 69th Avenue in the City of Oakland (City), County of Alameda. The crossings are identified as the 66th Avenue Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 004-11.60, DOT No. 834035F and the 69th Avenue Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 004-11.90, DOT No. 834036M.

Both roadways are 2 lane roadways equipped with Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate) warning devices facing each approach to the crossing. At both crossings, there is approximately 50 feet between the crossing and a signalized intersection with San Leandro Street. Currently sidewalks are present on some approaches but discontinuous within the railroad right-of-way.

Currently there is a single track of the Oakland Subdivision. A siding track was present along this corridor until recent years, but has been removed. The track removal has improved the surface conditions at the crossings. The warning devices remain in their original locations which results in approximately 30 feet between the Commission Standard 9 warning device and the track.

The City states in its GO 88-B request letter that "Currently the railroad crossings are unpaved and cannot be crossed safely by handicapped or stroller pushing pedestrians. The project will improve pedestrian access from the Lion's Creek Housing development just east of the Union Pacific rail tracks to the Coliseum BART station entrance on San Leandro Street just west of the tracks."

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

1. Construct sidewalk, curb and gutter on each approach to the track around the existing location of the warning devices.
2. Install Americans with Disabilities Act compliant detectable warning tactile warning strips along each sidewalk approach to the track. The strips shall be placed a minimum of 12 feet from the track, as measured perpendicular from the nearest track.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request filed by the City, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As UPRR is in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, the improvements as described in your request dated October 26, 2010 and summarized above are authorized.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with Section 8A.05, Temporary Traffic Control Zones, of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD), published by the California Department of Transportation.

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

This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended. [California Pubic 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, RCES may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, the City 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 as outlined on the web page.

If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Schumacher at (415) 703-1208 or kevin.schumacher@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Jim Smith, UPRR
Peter Chun, City of Oakland