

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 PROMENADE CIRCLE, SUITE 115
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834



December 27, 2011

File Number: G.11-11-02
City of Santa Paula, County of Ventura

Brian Yanez
Director of Community Services
City of Santa Paula
113 N. Mill Street
Santa Paula, CA 93060

Re: **General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Peck Road at-grade rail crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 001BE-412.80, DOT No. 745709C in the City of Santa Paula, Ventura County.**

Dear Mr. Yanez:

This refers to your correspondence, dated August 18, 2011 (received November 29, 2011), requesting authorization, pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the existing Peck Road at-grade rail crossing of the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) Santa Paula Branch line, in the City of Santa Paula (City), Ventura County. The crossing is identified by CPUC Crossing Number 001BE-412.80 and DOT Number 745709C.

The Peck Road Crossing is a two lane roadway over one VCTC subdivision track. The crossing is currently equipped with two curb mounted and one pork chop median mounted Commission Standard No. 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices, and advance warning pavement markings and signage. Main Street runs parallel to the tracks and is the signalized intersection adjacent to, and south of the crossing, respectively. The City proposes to make certain modifications to the crossing to accommodate the Santa Paula Branch Line Recreational Trail pedestrian-bike trail.

In addition to Fillmore and Western Railway (FWRY) passenger excursion trains, the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) operates freight trains, over the VCTC Santa Paula Branch line. FWRY maintains the line. Approximately one (1) passenger train per month at a maximum speed of 15 MPH and up to three (3) freight trains per week at a maximum speed of at 10 MPH operate over the crossing. All trains operate during daylight hours. Currently the Average Annual Daily Traffic (ADT) count is 5,300 at the crossing.

The City proposes the following modifications to the crossing:

- Install Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant pedestrian pathway on the northeast quadrant of the crossing with curb, gutter and a pedestrian ramp leading to the Mission Street crosswalk;

- Relocate the crosswalk on Mission Street, on the southeast quadrant of crossing and add new “ladder style” pavement markings for the crosswalk, as shown on plans;
- Install removable bollards northeast of the crossing at the end of the pedestrian trail to prevent vehicle access and slow down pathway users before entering crossing;
- Install 12” LED flashing lights on the three existing Commission Standard 9 warning devices for improved visibility;
- Install additional flashers on the Commission Standard 9 warning device in the northeast quadrant to address the westbound trail users;
- Install 48” in height fencing along the right-of-way outside the VCTC tracks to prevent trespassing;
- Install signage to include; “Bicycle Warning” (W11-1), “Stop Here When Flashing Lights” (R8-10), “LOOK” (R15-8), and “Parallel Track at T Intersection” (W10-4), as shown on plans;
- Install ADA compliant detectable warning tactile strips on all sidewalk approaches. Placement: a minimum of 36 inches in the direction of travel over the full width of the sidewalk, 2 feet in front of the warning device (where present), but no closer than 15 feet from the centerline of the tracks;
- Application of dynamic envelope pavement markings consisting of a 4 inch solid white line, placed across the roadway 6 feet from the nearest rail, parallel to the tracks; and
- Application of MUTCD compliant signage and pavement markings, including W10-1 advance warning signs and RxR pavement markings.

The Commission’s Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request filed by the City and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City, VCTC, and FWRV are 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 August 8, 2011 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 Public Resources Code 21084].

This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within three 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.

VCTC must also submit an updated FRA inventory form to the Federal Railroad Administration, reflecting the changes. CPUC requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to rces@cpuc.ca.gov.

If you have any questions, please contact Sergio Licon at (213) 576-7085 or sal@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daren Gilbert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "G".

Daren Gilbert, Manager
Rail Transit and Crossings Branch
Consumer Protection and Safety Division

C: Mary Travis, Rail Manager, VCTC
David Wilkinson, Fillmore and Western Railway