

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 Promenade Circle, Suite 115
Sacramento, CA 95834-2939



May 29, 2012

File Number: G.12-04-006
City of San Leandro, Alameda County

Patrick Coggins
Senior Right-of-Way Agent
California Department of Transportation
111 Grand Avenue
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Interstate 880/San Leandro Creek Bridge and Overhead Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 001L-14.22-A, DOT No. 749869E in the City of Oakland, Alameda County.

Dear Mr. Coggins:

This refers to your letter, dated April 23, 2012 (received by us on April 24, 2012), and supplemented on May 1, 2012, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the existing Interstate 880/San Leandro Creek Bridge and Overhead highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Union Pacific Railroad Company's (UPRR) Coast Subdivision track in the City of San Leandro, Alameda County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001L-14.22-A, DOT No. 749869E. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) identifies this structure as Bridge No. 33-0100 (Right Bridge).

The Interstate 880 crossing is an 8 lane freeway above one railroad track used by both freight and Amtrak passenger trains. The crossing is located along Interstate 880 between 98th Avenue in Oakland and Davis Street in San Leandro. Commission staff is not aware of non-compliance or deviation from Commission General Order (GO) 26-D minimum clearances at this location. UPRR states that there are approximately two passenger train movements per day at up to 50 miles per hour, and approximately 1 freight train per day, at up to 40 miles per hour.

Caltrans has a construction project to install a High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane along the Interstate 880 (I-880) median in this area between approximately Hegenberger Road in Oakland and Marina Boulevard in San Leandro.

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

- Widen southbound I-880 (Bridge No. 33-0100, Right Bridge). The existing width of this bridge is approximately 130 feet. The new crossing width will vary between 147.5 feet to 148.7 feet.
- Construct a “steel truss bridge. The contractor will first construct bents and caps, and then place girders on top of those.”
- The widening will accommodate the addition of a southbound HOV lane

The plans show that construction will maintain a minimum 16 feet of horizontal clearance between the “face of crash wall” and the existing track centerline. Additional information provided by Caltrans on May 1, 2012 indicates that a minimum of 23 feet of vertical clearance will be maintained above the track, and that vertical clearances will not be temporarily impaired during construction.

Commission staff has investigated the request by Caltrans and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As Caltrans 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 statutorily exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended [California Public Resources Code **21080.13**].

Caltrans District 4 issued a Negative Declaration dated January 21, 2010 for the I-880 southbound HOV lane project. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) dated February 9, 2010 for the ‘Interstate 880 Southbound HOV Lane Extension Project’.

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, 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, Caltrans shall notify RCES that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G title *Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossings and Separation*. Form G requirements and forms can be

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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.

At the conclusion of the project, UPRR should submit an updated FRA inventory form to the Federal Railroad Administration, reflecting the changes. Commission requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to rces@cpuc.ca.gov.

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

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

cc: Jim Smith, UPRR
Peter Chun, Oakland