

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 Promenade Circle, Suite 115  
Sacramento, CA 95834



June 18, 2012

File No. G.12-05-005

Keith B. Helmut  
City Engineer  
City of Madera  
205 W. Fourth Street  
Madera, CA 93637

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter Fourth Street Highway–Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 001B- 183.60, DOT No. 760979N, in the City of Madera, Madera County.**

Dear Mr. Helmut:

This refers to your letter dated May 7, 2012, and received by us on May 8, 2012, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (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 Madera (City), County of Madera. The crossing is identified as Fourth Street Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 001B-183.60 and DOT No.760979N.

Fourth Street, running northeast-southwest, is a minor arterial roadway at the crossing and throughout the City. The Fourth Street crossing has a single track aligned in a northwest-southeast direction, frequented by UPRR freight trains. There are no sidewalks across the track; sidewalks on both sides of the roadway and both sides of the crossing end before crossing the track. There are also no medians. The crossing is equipped with two Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices. In its GO 88-B request, the City states “Fourth Street is a busy, heavily used thoroughfare and is relied upon for access to many public and private facilities near and along Fourth Street. The proposed improvements will benefit the public by enhancing the City’s traffic circulation and safety due to the widened road and the smoother vertical profile”.

The proposed alteration, as indicated in the request letter and/or shown on the plans, shall consist of

- Widening the existing two-lane roadway to include four 12-foot wide thru lanes per plan;
- installing a new 12-foot wide (at its widest point) raised median on both sides of the crossing per plan;
- installing an advance preemption time of 25 seconds (for a maximum preemption time of 45 seconds including a minimum railroad warning time of 20 seconds) for the Fourth Street/Gateway Drive intersection;
- replacing the existing warning devices;

- installing a Commission Standard 9-A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning device on the shoulder of the roadway on both sides of the crossing per plan;
- installing a Commission Standard 9 warning device on the new 12-foot wide raised median on both sides of the crossing per plan;
- extending concrete panel surface sections on both sides of the roadway in order to provide a 5-foot wide sidewalk that crosses the track on both sides of the roadway per plan;
- installing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standard detectable warning (tactile strip) surfaces on the sidewalk approaches at the crossing locations: 1 foot in advance of the warning devices, and at a minimum of 12 feet from the nearest rail on the other side of the crossing directly opposite the warning devices. Commission's Rail Crossing Engineering Section (RCES) Staff (Staff) has contacted the City to revise the plan to more clearly annotate and show the location of the tactile strips as noted above;
- revising the vertical profile of the crossing per plan to provide a smoother ride for vehicles on the roadway;
- installing pavement markings (RXR) and striping per plan.

Staff has investigated the request by the City, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City and UPRR (Parties) 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 California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD), published by the California Department of Transportation.

All Parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including other Commission General Orders, and the CAMUTCD.

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. A written request for a time extension must include concurrence letters by interested Parties in support of the time extension. If an extension is requested, Staff 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 *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.

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

If you have any questions, please contact Marvin Kennix at (916) 928-3809 or email at [mlk@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:mlk@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daren Gilbert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

Cc: Jim Smith, Manager of Industry & Public Projects, Union Pacific Railroad  
Les Jorgensen, Director of Special Transportation Projects, City of Madera