

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 PROMENADE CIRCLE, SUITE 115
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834



May 29, 2012

File Number: G.12-05-010

Tadj Ratajczak
Senior Right of Way Agent
California Department of Transportation
District 3
703 B Street
Marysville, CA 95901

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter Interstate 80 (Del Paso Park Overhead) Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 001A-96.40-A, DOT No. 762370G in the City of Sacramento, Sacramento County

Dear Mr. Ratajczak:

This refers to your letter dated May 10, 2012 and received by us on May 11, 2012 requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the grade separated crossing of Interstate 80 (Del Paso Park Overhead) in the City of Sacramento, Sacramento County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001A-96.40-A, DOT No. 762370G.

At this location, Interstate 80 is a divided freeway running east/west over two Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) tracks. Rail service at this crossing is approximately 32 passenger trains per day at a maximum speed of 79 mph and 10 freight trains per day at a maximum speed of 70 mph.

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

- Widening each freeway structure from three to four lanes by widening toward the median;
- The temporary vertical clearance over the UPRR tracks shall be 21 feet;
- The permanent vertical clearance over the UPRR tracks shall be 23 feet 11 inches.

During construction, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is requesting a temporary impaired vertical clearance of 21 feet. Commission General Order (GO) 26-D, Section 2.1, requires a minimum vertical clearance of 22 feet 6 inches. The Caltrans requests a temporary deviation from the vertical clearance requirements of GO 26-D. The Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) of the Commission's Consumer Protection and Safety Division contacted UPRR

regarding the temporary deviation, and their representative indicated they do not oppose the request. The minimum permanent vertical clearance above top of rail will be 23 feet 11 inches.

Caltrans states in its GO88-B request letter that “The proposed construction of high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes and the median structure widening of the Del Paso Park Overheads will reduce traffic congestion, emissions, commute time as well as encourage the use of buses and carpools”

Commission staff has investigated Caltrans’ request, 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 Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended [California Public Resources Code 21080.13].

Pursuant to Commission Resolution SX-76 and Section 16.2 of General Order (GO) 26-D, Caltrans is granted a temporary deviation from GO 26-D, Section 2.1 and is authorized a temporary overhead clearance of not less than 21 feet above the top of the highest rail to the lowest of point on the overhead structure, during the period of construction of the Interstate 80 (Del Paso Park Overhead) structure, CPUC Crossing No. 001A-96.40-A, DOT No. 762370G in the City of Sacramento, Sacramento County.

The following requirements shall apply to the temporary deviation to GO 26-D, Section 2.1:

1. Caltrans shall notify UPRR and the Sacramento office of the Commission’s Consumer Protection and Safety Division – Rail Operations Safety Branch (ROSB) and Rail Crossings Engineering Section at least 15 days but not more than 30 days in advance of the date when Caltrans will create the temporary reduced overhead clearance. Commission notification may be made to rces@cpuc.ca.gov.
2. UPRR shall issue instructions to all individuals responsible for operation of trains over these tracks of the temporary reduced clearance of 21 feet beneath the Interstate 80 (Del Paso Park Overhead) structure, and shall submit the instructions in advance of the date when Caltrans will create the temporary reduced overhead clearance to the Sacramento office of ROSB and RCES. Notification may be made to rces@cpuc.ca.gov.

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 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 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/static/transportation/crossings/formg.htm> 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 David Stewart at (916) 928-2515 or atm@cpuc.ca.gov .

Sincerely,



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

C Jim Smith, UPRR
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