

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 Van Ness Ave  
San Francisco, CA 94102



July 24, 2012

**File No. G.12-06-018**

Kevin Emigh  
Supervising Civil Engineer  
Contra Costa County  
255 Glacier Drive  
Martinez, CA 94553

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Chesley Avenue Highway–Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 001A- 13.30 and DOT No. 751691H, in the County of Contra Costa.**

Dear Mr. Emigh:

This refers to Mr. Rob Tavenier's letter dated June 25, 2012 and received by us on June 28, 2012, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Chesley Avenue at-grade highway-rail crossing of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) track in the County of Contra Costa (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001A-13.30 and DOT No. 751691H.

Chesley Avenue, running east-west, is a two-lane collector roadway at the crossing. The Chesley Avenue crossing consists of five tracks aligned in a north-south direction. The train traffic consists of both UPRR freight trains and Amtrak passenger trains. There are sidewalks in the northwest and southwest quadrants leading up to, but not through the crossing. 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 County states "The proposed pedestrian facilities and railroad signal and warning devices upgrade for the Chesley Avenue railroad crossing will improve safety after analyzing the existing conditions with respect to vehicle traffic, pedestrian pathway and rail traffic."

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

- installing a Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) warning device in the southeast quadrant;
- replacing the existing flashing light signals with 12 inch LED assemblies with 24 inch hoods;
- installing concrete curb, gutter and sidewalks in the southeast and southwest quadrants;
- installing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant detectable warning strips in the southeast and southwest quadrants;
- installing a pedestrian barricade in the northwest quadrant directing pedestrians to the south sidewalk.

The Commission's Rail Crossing Engineering Section (RCES) Staff has investigated the request by the County, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the County, City of Richmond, 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 Mr. Rob Tavenier's 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, RCES may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, the County 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.

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 Felix Ko at (415) 703-3722 or email at [felix.ko@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:felix.ko@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



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

Cc: Jim Smith, Manager of Industry & Public Projects, Union Pacific Railroad  
Edric Kwan, City Engineer, Engineering Services Department, City of Richmond