

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 PROMENADE CIRCLE, SUITE 115
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834



October 5, 2012

File Number: G.12-08-033

Zabih Zaca
Senior Civil Engineer
City of Tracy
325 Civic Center Plaza
Tracy, CA 95376

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the 11th Street Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 001TTL-83.36-A and DOT No. 753069A in the City of Tracy, San Joaquin County

Dear Mr. Zaca:

This refers to your letter dated July 20, 2012, received by us on August 27, 2012, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the 11th Street grade-separated crossing of Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) tracks in the City of Tracy (City), San Joaquin County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001TTL-83.36-A and DOT No. 753069A.

The 11th Street crossing is currently a triple track grade-separated 4 lane roadway crossing over three UPRR tracks in the City of Tracy. UPRR runs approximately 5 freight trains per day at a maximum speed of 45 mph over the crossing.

The City states in its GO 88-B request letter that "The public will benefit from the proposed project as improvements will enhance public safety by providing a safe vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle crossing over the UPRR tracks. The existing bridge is seismically inadequate and subject to collapse in the maximum credible earthquake. In addition, the existing bridge has substandard horizontal and vertical clearances to the UPRR tracks. The proposed bridge will meet current structural design standards, AASHTO requirements for sidewalks and shoulder widths, and UPRR horizontal and vertical clearance requirements."

During construction, the City is requesting a temporary impaired vertical clearance of 21 feet. Commission GO 26-D, Section 2.1, requires a minimum vertical clearance of 22 feet 6 inches. The City 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 specifically regarding the temporary deviation, and their representatives indicated they do not oppose the request. In an e-mail dated August 27, 2012, UPRR stated that they approved the proposed temporary vertical clearance. The minimum permanent vertical clearance above top of rail will be 25 feet.

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

- Placing a temporary prefabricated steel truss single-span detour bridge over the UPRR tracks, with an impaired overhead clearance of 21 feet, and shifting traffic to it during the demolition and construction period. The temporary structure shall be removed when the new structure is completed.
- Replacing the existing 11th Street structure. The new single span bridge, in combination with retaining walls, will have four lanes, be approximately 291 feet long and be a minimum 88 feet 10 inches in width.

Commission staff has investigated the City's request, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City 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.

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 Pubic Resources Code 21080.13].

Pursuant to Commission Resolution SX-76 and Section 16.2 of General Order (GO) 26-D, the City 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 11th Street structure, CPUC Crossing No. 001TTL-83.36-A and DOT No. 753069A in the City of Tracy, San Joaquin County.

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

1. The City 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 the City will create the temporary reduced overhead clearance. Commission notification may be made to rces@cpuc.ca.gov.
2. UPRR shall issue instructions to all agencies responsible for operation of trains over these tracks of the temporary reduced clearance of 21 feet beneath the temporary 11th Street structure, and shall submit the instructions in advance of the date when the City 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 final completion of this project, the City shall notify RCES that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G. 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.

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,

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

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

C James H. Smith, UPRR