

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

320 W. 4th Street, Suite 500
Los Angeles, CA 90013



September 17, 2012

File No. G.12-09-006

Manuel Pineda
Deputy Director
City of San Jose
299 East Santa Clara Street, 3rd Floor Tower
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the East Alma Avenue Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 001E-51.45-C and DOT No.755115F, in the City of San Jose, Santa Clara County.

Dear Mr. Pineda:

This refers to your letter dated August 28, 2012, received by us on September 4, 2012, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the East Alma Avenue at-grade highway-rail crossing of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) track in the City of San Jose (City), Santa Clara County (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001E-51.45 and DOT No. 755155F.

East Alma Avenue, running east-west, is a four-lane minor arterial. The East Alma Avenue crossing consists of a single spur track aligned in a north-south direction. The train traffic consists of approximately two UPRR freight trains per month at 10 mph serving a single customer immediately north of the crossing. There are sidewalks up to, but not through the crossing in the northwest, northeast, and southwest quadrants. The crossing is equipped with two Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices and two median mounted Commission Standard 9 warning devices. The crossing originally had seven tracks. Six of the tracks have been removed. However the automatic warning devices remain at their original locations, resulting in an extremely wide crossing.

In its GO 88-B request, the City states the project "corrects a current safety issue as the set of signals for eastbound traffic (both in the median and shoulder) are out of position by approximately 45 feet since the former tracks have been abandoned. Additionally the west side gate relocation allows access for new development."

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

- Relocating both the Commission Standard 9 in the southwest quadrant and the median mounted Commission Standard 9 on the west approach to 15 feet from centerline of the track;
- Installing sidewalk through the south side of the crossing;
- Installing a raised concrete median on the west approach to mount the relocated Commission Standard 9;
- Installing bollards on the west approach extending 85 west from the raised concrete median;

- Widening the existing median on the east approach to 10 feet and extending the median to 72 feet in length;
- Installing a R3-4 "No U-Turn" sign on each median;
- Installing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant detectable warning strips on the sidewalk in the southeast and southwest quadrants.

The Commission's Rail Crossing Engineering Section (RCES) 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, RCES 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 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

If you have any questions, please contact Felix Ko at (415) 703-3722 or email at felix.ko@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Anton Garabedian, P. E.
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