

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



November 14, 2012

File No. G.12-09-012

Kenneth Ronsse
Deputy Director
Engineering & Construction Div.
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
3331 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95134-1927

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Auzerais Avenue Highway–Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 082D-3.75 and DOT No.750154E, in the City of San Jose, Santa Clara County.

Dear Mr. Ronsse:

This refers to your letter dated September 10, 2012, received by us on September 12, 2012, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Auzerais Avenue at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) track in the City of San Jose (City), Santa Clara County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 082D-3.75 and DOT No. 750154E.

Auzerais Avenue, running east-west, is a two-lane road. The crossing consists of a double track aligned in a northeast-southwest direction and is part of a shared corridor with Union Pacific (UPRR). The train traffic consists of approximately 115 VTA light rail passenger trains per day at 30 mph and two UPRR freight trains per day at 10 mph. There are sidewalks up to, but not through the crossing in the northeast quadrant. A sidewalk traverses though the crossing on the south side. The crossing is equipped with two Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assemblies with automatic gate arms) and a Commission Standard 9-A (Commission Standard 9 with additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning devices. The Commission Standard 9 warning device in the northwest quadrant acts as a gate for the adjacent driveway in the northwest quadrant.

The proposed alteration, as indicated in the request letter and/or shown on the plans, shall consist of replacing the solid existing gate arm on the Commission Standard 9 warning device in the northwest quadrant (at the parking lot exit) with an articulated gate arm of the same extended length.

The Commission's Rail Crossing Engineering Section (RCES) staff has investigated the request by VTA and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As VTA, 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, VTA 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 by clicking "Form G Report of Changes" link at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/crossings>. This report may be submitted electronically to rces@cpuc.ca.gov as outlined on the web page.

At the conclusion of the project, VTA 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 Garabatian, P. E.
Program Project Supervisor
Rail Transit and Crossings Branch
Consumer Protection and Safety Division

CC:

Benjamin Scharf, Special Counsel
James Smith, Manager Industry and Public Projects
Zahi Khattab, Transportation and Planning