

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



November 12, 2012

File No. G.12-10-001

Matt Thompson
Wastewater Division Manager
City of Paso Robles
1000 Spring Street
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the 21st Street Highway–Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 001E-211.95 and DOT No.752066B, in the City of Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo County.

Dear Mr. Thompson:

This refers to your letter dated July 18, 2012, received by us on October 3, 2012, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the 21st Street at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) track in the City of Paso Robles (City), San Luis Obispo County (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001E-211.95 and DOT No. 752066B.

21st Street, running east-west, is a two-lane street. The crossing consists of a single track aligned in north-south direction on the UPRR Coast mainline. The train traffic consists of approximately two Amtrak passenger trains per day at 60 mph and ten UPRR freight trains per day at 50 mph. There are sidewalks up to but not through the crossing in the northwest and southwest quadrants.

The crossing is equipped with two Commission Standard 9-A (flashing light signal assemblies with automatic gate arms with additional flashing light signals over the roadway on cantilevered arms) automatic warning devices.

The crossing experiences a high amount of pedestrian traffic due to the Paso Robles Event Center located just east of the crossing and the residential area and downtown Paso Robles located immediately west of the crossing.

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

- Relocating the Commission Standard 9-A in the northeast quadrant.
- Installing a sidewalk through the north side of the crossing.
- Installing cable rail along the sidewalk in the northeast quadrant.
- Installing of American with Disabilities Act (ADA) standard detectable warning tactile strips on the sidewalks in the northeast and northwest quadrants.
- Installing a median on the west approach. The median consists of a depressed storm water channel and a painted median.
- Installing curb and gutter in the northeast, northwest, and southwest quadrants.
- Installing pavement markings to delineate the traveled roadway.
- Installing a pedestrian barricade at the end of the sidewalk in the southwest quadrant.

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, UPRR 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/PUC/safety/Rail/Crossings/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 Garabatian, P. E.
Program Project Supervisor
Rail Transit and Crossings Branch
Consumer Protection and Safety Division

CC: James Smith, Manager Industry and Public Project