

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



December 16, 2013

File Number: XREQ 2013100009
Trout Gulch Road
Aptos, Santa Cruz County

John J. Presleigh
Director of Public Projects
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street, Room 410
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Trout Gulch Road At-Grade Highway–Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 017B-12.50, SCR-1019 and DOT No. 768267P, In The Town of Aptos, Santa Cruz County.

Dear Mr. Presleigh:

This refers to your letter, dated October 21, 2013, received by us on October 29, 2013, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the Trout Gulch Road at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Santa Cruz and Monterey Bay Railway (SCX) Santa Cruz Industrial Lead track in Unincorporated Santa Cruz County (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 017B-12.50, SCR-1019 and DOT No. 768267P.

The crossing is equipped with two Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices. The crossing is one of two access points between Soquel Drive, the main thoroughfare to Highway 1, and numerous residences north of the tracks. A new commercial development is also planned north of the tracks. There are no trains operating over the crossing. In case of future train operation, the maximum crossing speed limit will be 10 MPH.

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

- Replacing the Commission Standard 9 warning device in the northwest quadrant with a Commission Standard 9-A (Commission Standard 9 with additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning device. Additional flashing light signals shall be installed on the Commission Standard 9-A facing westbound Aptos Street;
- Replacing the Commission Standard 9 warning device in the southeast quadrant with a new Commission Standard 9 warning device. Additional flashing light signals shall be installed on the Commission Standard 9 facing eastbound and westbound Soquel Drive;
- Signalizing the Trout Gulch Road and Soquel Drive intersection with railroad preemption;
- Installing a pre-signal on the north approach of the Trout Gulch Road crossing for

southbound motorists;

- Traffic signal phasing shall be implemented as shown on the phasing diagram;
- Railroad preemption shall be implemented as shown on the railroad preemption worksheet (28 seconds track clearance green and 11 seconds advanced preemption);
- Installing a left turn pocket for westbound Soquel Drive;
- Extending the left turn pockets on southbound Trout Gulch Road and eastbound Soquel Drive;
- Widening Trout Gulch Road at the crossing from 39 feet to 42 feet;
- Replacing the rubber crossing surface with a concrete panel crossing surface;
- Installing a sidewalk through the east side of the crossing;
- Installing curb and gutter in the northwest and northeast quadrants of the crossing;
- Installing crosswalks on Aptos Street and Trout Gulch Road;
- Relocating the crosswalk on Soquel Drive from the west leg of the Soquel Drive and Trout Gulch Road intersection to the east leg;
- Installing curb ramps for the new crosswalks;
- Installing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant detectable warning tactile strips on the northeast and southeast sidewalk approaches;
- Installing a Type I pedestrian barricade in the northwest quadrant to direct pedestrians to the east sidewalk through the crossing;
- Relocating the signal box from the northeast quadrant to the southeast quadrant;
- Installing a R3-1 (Active) "NO RIGHT TURN" active blank out sign and a R10-15 "TURNING VEHICLES YIELD TO PEDESTRIANS" sign on Soquel Drive for westbound motorists turning northbound onto Trout Gulch Road;
- Installing a R8-8 "DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS" sign in the northeast quadrant for northbound Trout Gulch Road motorists.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request by the County and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the County, SCX, and the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) 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.08, Temporary Traffic Control Zones, of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD), 2012 Edition, published by the California Department of Transportation.

All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and the CA MUTCD.

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 RCES, the time to complete the project may be extended. Any written request for a time extension must include

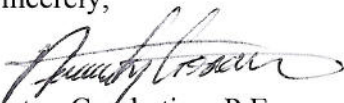
concurrence letters by involved parties in support of the time extension. If an extension is requested, RCES may re-evaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, the County and/or SCX shall notify RCES that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G title *Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossings and Separation*. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the Commission 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, SCX must 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 Felix Ko at (415) 703-3722 or felix.ko@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Anton Garabetian, P.E.
Program and Project Supervisor
Rail Crossings Engineering Section
Safety and Enforcement Division

cc: **(SENT VIA EMAIL)**
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