

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



March 11, 2014

File Number: XREQ 2014020004
Poplar Avenue
San Mateo, San Mateo County

Patrick Kitto, PE
kittop@samtrans.com
PCJPB Engineering
Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board
1250 San Carlos Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070-1306

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Poplar Avenue Grade Separated Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 105E-17.20-B, SM-1153 and DOT No. 754896L in the City of San Mateo, San Mateo County.

Dear Mr. Kitto:

This refers to your letter, dated February 21, 2014, received by us on February 21, 2014, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the Poplar Avenue grade separated highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (PCJPB) track in the City of San Mateo (City), San Mateo County (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 105E-17.20-B, SM-1153 and DOT No. 754896L.

The crossing consists of a double-track rail bridge over Poplar Avenue. The existing vertical clearance of 13 feet does not meet General Order (GO) 26-D requirement of 15 feet. The PCJPB operates 92 passenger trains per day at the crossing with a maximum speed limit of 79 MPH. Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) operates approximately 4 freight trains per day at the crossing with a maximum speed limit of 50 mph. The proposed alterations to the crossing will bring the rail bridge in compliance with the GO 26-D vertical clearance requirement.

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

- Reconstructing the railroad bridge,
- Increasing the vertical clearance between the roadway and the railroad bridge to 15 feet.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request by the PCJPB and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the PCJPB and City 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.

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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 21080.13].

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 PCJPB and/or the City 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, PCJPB 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 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)**
Gary Heap, City of San Mateo, heap@cityofsanmateo.org