

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



May 19, 2014

File Number: XREQ 2014050006
Middlefield Road
Unincorporated San Mateo County

Diana Shu
Road Operations Manager
County of San Mateo
752 Chestnut Street
Redwood City, CA 94063
dshu@smcgov.org

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Middlefield Road At-Grade Highway–Rail Crossing, Identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001DAB-26.70, SM-1020 and DOT No. 750010A in Unincorporated San Mateo County.

Dear Ms. Shu:

This refers to your letter, dated December 9, 2013, received by us on April 24, 2014, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Middlefield Road at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) Redwood Junction Industrial Lead track in unincorporated San Mateo County (County). The Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain) owns the railroad right of way with UPRR maintaining the crossings and having operating rights. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001DAB-26.70, SM-1020 and DOT No. 750010A.

The crossing, located on one leg of a wye, consists of three industrial lead tracks, one Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) warning device, and two Commission Standard 9-A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and additional flashing light signals over the roadway on cantilevered arm) warning devices. Currently UPRR does not operate freight trains over the crossing, but is restricted to operate under a "Stop & Protect" order at a maximum speed limit of 10 MPH when service commences again. Construction of a new County Healthcare facility has increased the amount of pedestrians crossing Middlefield Road, many of which use the railroad tracks to cross the roadway. The proposed alterations will improve crossing for pedestrians across Middlefield Road by directing pedestrian traffic away from the tracks towards the two proposed pedestrian crosswalks ahead of the active warning devices.

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

- Installing two pedestrian crosswalks with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant curb ramps and sidewalk landings east and west of the tracks before the curb mounted Commission Standard 9-A warning device.;
- Installing push button-actuate pedestrian walk signals at the new pedestrian crosswalks with curb mounted rectangular rapid-flashing beacon device; and

- Applying California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) standard signage and pavement markings, including W10-1 advance warning sign and "YIELD TO PEDESTRANS" signs.

The crosswalks will be installed for a period not to exceed 3 years from the date of construction; after which they must be removed.

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, Caltrain, and UPRR 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.

UPRR must also ensure that the crossing Emergency Notification Signs are installed to comply with CFR 234.309.

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, ADA 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 UPRR 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, UPRR must submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form to the FRA, reflecting the changes. Commission requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to rces@cpuc.ca.gov.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Felix Ko', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Felix Ko for:

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

cc: **(SENT VIA EMAIL)**

Peggy Ygbuhay, Union Pacific Railroad, pygbuhay@up.com
Dave Triolo, Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board, triolod@samtrans.com
Stephen Chao, Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board, chaos@samtrans.com