

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



October 13, 2014

File Number: XREQ 2014090007
Somavia Road
Unincorporated Monterey County

Robert K. Murdoch, P.E.
Director of Public Works
Monterey County Resource Management Agency Public Works
168 West Alisal Street, 2nd Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Somavia Road At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, Identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001E-123.45 and DOT No. 752175E, in Unincorporated Monterey County.

Dear Mr. Murdoch:

This refers to your letter dated September 4, 2014, received by us on September 11, 2014, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Somavia Road at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) Salinas Subdivision mainline track in unincorporated Monterey County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001E-123.45 and DOT No. 752175E.

The crossing is equipped with two Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices and one Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly). Somavia Road ends in a STOP sign controlled T-intersection with United States Route 101 (US 101) north of the crossing. UPRR operates approximately six freight trains and the National Passenger Railroad Corporation (Amtrak) operates approximately 2 passenger trains daily at a maximum train speed of 79 MPH at the crossing.

The Monterey County Resource Management Agency Public Works (County) proposes the following alterations to the crossing, as part of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) construction widening improvement project on US 101:

- Constructing a deceleration taper and an acceleration taper roadway area on the west side of US 101 for southbound traffic at the Somavia Road intersection north of the crossing, as shown on plans;
- Constructing shoulders along US 101 north of the crossing;
- Installing pavement markings for eastbound traffic to allow only right-hand turns onto southbound US 101;
- Installing curb, gutter along the shoulder areas north and south of the crossing on Somavia Road; and

- Applying California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, including W10-1 advance warning sign and “NORTHBOUND TRUCKS USE CHUALAR EXIT 2 MILES” with right arrow and “CAUTION TRAIN CROSSING” special signs as shown on plans.

The Commission’s Rail Crossings Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request by the County and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the County, UPRR, and Caltrans are in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, the improvements as described in your request dated September 4, 2014 and summarized above are authorized.

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

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with the current version of the CA MUTCD, 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 RCEB, 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, RCEB may re-evaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

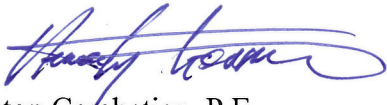
Within 30 days after completion of this project, the County and/or Caltrans shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G title *Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossings and Separation*. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained 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 rceb@cpuc.ca.gov as outlined on the web page.

At the conclusion of the project, the UPRR 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.

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If you have any questions, please contact Daniellia Fristoe at (916)928-2108 or daniellia.fristoe@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

cc: **(SENT VIA EMAIL)**
Timothy M. Gubbins, Caltrans District Five
Peggy J. Ygbuhay, UPRR
Gareth Davis, Helena Chemical

