

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



April 8, 2015

File Number: XREQ 2015030006  
Interstate 5, Southbound  
Near Lakehead, Shasta County

Lisa Harvey  
Senior Right of Way Agent  
California Department of Transportation  
1031 Butte Street  
Redding, CA 96001

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Interstate 5 Sidehill Viaduct Structure Grade-Separated Highway–Rail Crossing, Identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001C-274.07-A, and DOT No. 441001Y, near the Town of Lakehead, Unincorporated Shasta County.**

Dear Ms. Harvey:

This refers to your letter, dated February 10, 2015, received by us on February 10, 2015, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the Interstate 5 Sidehill Viaduct Structure grade-separated highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) track near the Town of Lakehead, Unincorporated Shasta County (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001C-274.07-A, DOT No. 441001Y.

The Interstate 5 Sidehill Viaduct Structure grade-separated crossing is a two lane structure with both lanes traveling southbound. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) will realign southbound Interstate 5 by replacing the Sidehill Viaduct Structure that crosses over UPRR Tunnel No. 3. The new bridge will be constructed adjacent to the existing viaduct. The location of the new bridge is such that it will not cross directly over any UPRR exposed infrastructure. The new Shasta Viaduct Bridge will be located about 220 feet horizontally from the edge of the bridge to the face of the tunnel portal and about 240 feet vertically from the bottom of the bridge to the top of the tunnel. There will be no changes to the existing tunnel.

Caltrans states in its request letter, “The public will benefit from the proposed project through improvements to both public safety and convenience. The Sidehill Viaduct structure was built in 1941, and at 70+ years old is approaching the end of its useful life. The structure has signs of typical aging, such as concrete deterioration, extensive spalling of concrete, areas of unsound concrete, water staining, and exposed rebar with corrosion.”

The Caltrans’s proposal to modify the crossing shall consist of the following alterations as indicated in its request letter and/or shown on its plans:

- Realign and replace southbound Interstate 5 Sidehill Viaduct Structure; and

- Make no changes to the existing UPRR Tunnel No. 3.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request by Caltrans and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As Caltrans and UPRR are in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, Caltrans may proceed with the alternations as described in its request letter and attachments, and summarized above.

Caltrans shall provide temporary traffic controls in compliance with Section 8A.08, Temporary Traffic Control Zones, of the CA MUTCD, 2014 Edition, published by the California Department of Transportation.

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

This project is statutory 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 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, Caltrans and/or UPRR 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.htm>. This report may be submitted electronically to [rceb@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:rceb@cpuc.ca.gov).

At the conclusion of the project, UPRR should electronically submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the FRA, reflecting the changes. 49 CFR 234 Section 234.409 requires the railroads to submit periodic crossing inventory updates a minimum of once every three years.

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

Sincerely,

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

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

cc: **(SENT VIA EMAIL)**

Peggy Ygbuhay, Union Pacific Railroad Company

