

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

320 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 500  
Los Angeles, CA 90013



March 26, 2015

File Number: XREQ 2015030009

Carolyn Gonot  
Director of Engineering & Infrastructure Development  
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority  
3331 North First Street, Building 2  
San Jose, CA 95134- 1927

**SENT VIA E-MAIL**

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the State Route 85 Grade-Separated Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 082B-13.50-A/105E-36.50-A and DOT No. 755016H in the City of Mountain View, County of Santa Clara**

Dear Ms. Gonot:

This refers to your letter dated and received by us on March 12, 2015, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the State Route 85 grade-separated highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain) tracks in the City of Mountain View (City), County of Santa Clara (County). State Route 85 is a California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) maintained roadway. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 082B-13.50-A/105E-36.50-A and DOT No. 755016H.

This segment of track is a shared corridor with two mainline Caltrain tracks and one VTA light rail track at the crossing. One hundred-twelve light rail trains per day travel through the crossing at a maximum speed of 45 mph. Ninety-two Caltrain passenger trains per day travel through the crossing at a maximum speed of 79 mph. Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) operates approximately four freight trains per day at a maximum speed of 50 mph at the crossing. The average daily traffic on State Route 85 is 86,000 vehicles.

This project is part of VTA's plan to increase efficiency and capacity of their light rail system.

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

- Installing a second light rail transit track between the existing light rail transit track and the Caltrain tracks; and
- Relocating the 5-foot tall fence between the VTA and Caltrain tracks.

Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) staff has investigated VTA's request, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As Caltrans, Caltrain and VTA 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, attachments, and summarized above.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided 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 General Orders and CA MUTCD.

This project is statutory exempt from the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended [California Pubic 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 this office, 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, the RCEB may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, VTA shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G. 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, VTA 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.

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

Sincerely,



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

(SENT VIA E-MAIL)

C: Ven Prasad, VTA  
Einar Acuna, Caltrans  
Stephen Chao, Caltrain