

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



March 30, 2015

File Number: XREQ 2015030011

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 Whisman Road Grade-Separated Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 082B-13.15-A/105E-36.80-A and DOT No. 755033Y 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 Whisman Road 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). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 082B-13.15-A/105E-36.80-A and DOT No. 755033Y.

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 35 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 through the crossing. The average daily traffic on Whisman Road is 8,500 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
- Installing a 5 foot tall fence between the VTA and Caltrain tracks.

Commission's Rail Crossing Engineering Branch (RCEB) staff has investigated VTA's request, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City, 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 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 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.

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 .

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
Jacqueline Solomon, City
Stephen Chao, Caltrain