

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



June 2, 2015

File Number: XREQ 2015050008
Downey Road
City of Vernon, Los Angeles County

Samuel Kevin Wilson
Director of Community Services and Water
City of Vernon
4305 Santa Fe Avenue
Vernon, CA 90058

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Downey Road At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, Identified as CPUC Crossing No. 003A-4.67-C and DOT No. 810942N in the City of Vernon, Los Angeles County.

Dear Mr. Wilson:

This refers to your letter, dated May 7, 2015, received by us on May 14, 2015, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) San Pedro Subdivision at Downey Road, in the City of Vernon, Los Angeles County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 003A-4.67-C and DOT No. 810942N.

The single-track crossing is a north-south roadway with two through lanes on each direction. UPRR San Pedro Subdivision track runs parallel and east of Downey Road, and crosses Downey Road diagonally at an angle, approximately 45 degrees. There is a sidewalk along Downey Road on the southbound side. The spur crossing is equipped with two Commission Standard 1R Crossbucks signage with advance warning signs and pavement markings. UPRR operates approximately one freight train daily with a maximum speed of 12 miles per hour (MPH). The average daily roadway traffic over the crossing is 12,901.

The City, in cooperation with UPRR, proposes to the following safety improvements to the Downey Road at-grade crossing, as part of the Federal Section 130 hazard elimination program:

- Install one new curb mounted Commission Standard 8-A (flashing light signal assembly with additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilever arm) warning device for the southbound vehicular approach, with 12" light emitting diode (LED) flashing lights, at the northwest quadrant of the crossing;
- Install one new curb mounted Commission Standard 8-A warning device for the northbound vehicular approach, with 12" LED flashing lights, at the southeast quadrant of the crossing;
- Install Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complaint detectable warning tactile strips on the sidewalk approaches;
- Reconstruct ADA compliant concrete sidewalk approaches along Downey Road on the southbound side;

- Construct curb and gutter, as shown on plans; and
- Apply California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD compliant signage and pavement markings, including W10-1 advance warning signs and RXR pavement markings.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request by the City and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City and UPRR 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 May 7, 2015, and summarized above are authorized.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with the CA MUTCD, published by the California Department of Transportation. All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders, Americans with Disabilities Act, and CA MUTCD.

UPRR must ensure that Emergency Notification Systems signs are installed to comply with CFR 234.309.

This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental 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 reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.


Within 30 days after completion of this project, the City 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 CPUC 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, 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. Commission requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

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If you have any questions, please contact Chi Cheung To at (213) 576-5766 or cct@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anton Garabetian", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

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

C: **(SENT VIA EMAIL)**
Chris Keckeisen, UPRR
Vince Rodriguez, City of Vernon
Mark Bryner, Caltrans

