

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



July 16, 2015

File Number: XREQ 2015060002

Ellis Road
County of Yuba

Michael Lee, PE, LS
Director of Public Works
Yuba County
915 8th Street Suite 125
Marysville, CA 95901

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Ellis Road At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, Identified as CPUC Crossing No. 004-183.10, and DOT No. 834954B, in Unincorporated Yuba County.

Dear Mr. Lee:

This refers to your letter, dated April 23, 2015, received by us on May 19, 2015, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the Ellis Road at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) track in the County of Yuba (County). The UPRR assumes maintenance responsibilities and operating rights at the crossing. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 004-183.10 and DOT No. 834954B.

The crossing consists of one industrial main track over a two lane roadway. The crossing has two Commission Standard 1-R (crossbuck sign on a post) warning devices.

The County states in its request letter, "Installing active warning devices would provide improved warning to motorists of approaching trains over the existing passive conditions. Use of cantilever is necessary due to the adjacent levee/earthwork which is raised above the track east of the crossing and creates a visibility obstruction to drivers approaching westbound. The cantilever will also provide additional visibility during inclement weather conditions, such as fog which is common in the area."

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

- Reconstructing the eastbound road approach for approximately 250' and the westbound road approach for approximately 150';
- Widening the roadway to the 24' standard width;
- Reducing the approach grade by adding fill to accommodate for the improved grade and width;
- Replacing the Commission Standard 1-R in the northeast quadrant with a new Commission Standard 9-A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and

- additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning device with additional backlights on the cantilever;
- Replacing the Commission Standard 1-R in the southwest quadrant with a new Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate) warning device;
 - Constructing asphalt curb in the northeast and southwest quadrants in front of the railroad warning devices;
 - Installing signal house in the northeast quadrant;
 - Replacing the existing crossing surface with 32' of new concrete panel crossing surface; and
 - Applying California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, as shown on plans.

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

UPRR must ensure that Emergency Notification System signs are installed to comply with Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 234.309.

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 GOs 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 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.

At the conclusion of the project, UPRR should electronically submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form (Form F6180.71) reflecting the changes. 49 CFR 234

Michael Lee
XREQ 2015060002
July 16, 2015
Page 3 of 3

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.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Felix Ko', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

cc: **(SENT VIA EMAIL)**

Eric Ausmus, PE, Yuba County
Kevin Yoder, Union Pacific Railroad