

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



November 22, 2016

File Number XREQ 2016110002  
Alma Street  
Palo Alto, Santa Clara County

Stephen Chao  
Deputy Director, Engineering  
Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board  
1250 San Carlos Avenue  
San Carlos, CA 94070-1306

**SENT VIA E-MAIL**

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Alma Street At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 105E-29.80 and DOT No. 754992N, in the City of Palo Alto, County of Santa Clara.**

Dear Mr. Chao:

This refers to your letter dated and received by us on November 9, 2016, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Alma Street at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (PCJX) tracks in the City of Palo Alto (City), County of Santa Clara. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 105E-29.80 and DOT No. 754992N.

The double track crossing is equipped with two curb mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices, and two Commission Standard 9 pedestrian warning devices. 92 passenger trains and four freight trains operate per day at a maximum speed of 79 mph over the crossing. The average daily traffic on Alma Street is 14,665 vehicles.

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

- Installing additional guardrail and fence in the northeast quadrant;
- Installing raised pavement markers along the roadway edge a maximum height of one inch up to the concrete panels and two inches along the concrete panel crossing surface area;
- Rebuilding the median on the west approach; and
- Applying California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, including crosshatch pavement markings, "KEEP CLEAR" pavement markings, and "STOP HERE" pedestrian pavement markings.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) staff investigated PCJX's request, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As PCJX and the City 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. PCJX must complete all the proposed alterations mentioned above for RCEB to consider this GO 88-B application closed.

PCJX must ensure that Emergency Notification Signs are installed to comply with Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 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 General Orders and CA MUTCD. This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended [California Pubic Resources Code 21084].

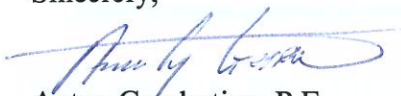
This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within three years of the date of this letter. Upon written request to this office, the time to complete the project may be extended. Any written request for a time extension must include concurrence 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, PCJX 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/Crossings> . This report may be submitted electronically to [rceb@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:rceb@cpuc.ca.gov).

At the conclusion of the project, PCJX should electronically submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the FRA, reflecting the changes. Title 49 CFR 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](mailto:rceb@cpuc.ca.gov).

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: Joshuah Mello, City of Palo Alto