

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



May 5, 2016

File Number: XREQ 2016040009

Stephen Fremming
Associate Civil Engineer
City of Turlock
156 S. Broadway, Suite 150
Turlock, CA 95380

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Fulkerth Road At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 001B-124.90 and DOT No. 752487M, in the City of Turlock, County of Stanislaus.

Dear Mr. Fremming:

This refers to your letter received by us via email on April 5, 2016, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Fulkerth Road at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) track in the City of Turlock (City), County of Stanislaus. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001B-124.90 and DOT No. 752487M.

The crossing is equipped with a Commission Standard 9-A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and additional lights over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning device on both sides of the crossing. UPRR operates 22 freight trains per day at a maximum speed of 70 mph, and Amtrak operates two passenger trains per day at a maximum speed of 79 mph at the crossing. At the crossing, Fulkerth road is a minor arterial roadway with an average daily vehicle traffic (ADT) of 23,195. Both eastbound and westbound approaches have two through lanes approaching the track. On the eastbound approach, east of the track, there are one left turn lane and two through lanes.

As noted by the City, "The purpose of the project is to improve safety and increase efficiency of the intersection (Fulkerth Road/Golden State Boulevard) by providing dual left turn lanes in all directions, bike lanes, sidewalks and accessible improvements, as well as widened roadways to accommodate a 65 foot long WB-65 design vehicle for turns onto and from Fulkerth Road and Golden State Boulevard. The project will also replace aging and inadequate pavement, pedestrian, and traffic signal infrastructure. The inclusion of advance preemption time in the project scope will assure that traffic will not queue over the railroad track."

The proposed alterations, as indicated in the City's request letter and/or shown on the plans, shall consist of:

- Removing the existing warning devices;

- Installing a combination Commission Standard 9-A warning devices, using a single combined mast on the median and on the curb side on the west side of the crossing for the eastbound approach. Side lights on the median side assembly shall be added for traffic exiting the Fairgrounds;
- Installing a Commission Standard 9-A warning device, on the median on the east side of the crossing for the westbound approach;
- Installing for the southbound right turn only approach towards the crossing a Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices, on the curb side and on the gore island, including side lights as shown per plans;
- Installing a Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) warning device, on the south side of Fulkerth Road on the east side of the crossing for pedestrians;
- Installing a new signal house;
- Upgrading the traffic signals with all new equipment including protected left turns, traffic signal poles, masts, signal heads, pedestrian heads, and vehicle detection;
- Installing 18 seconds of advance preemption railroad warning time in addition to other railroad warning time;
- Increasing the concrete panel crossing surface from 100 feet to 171 feet;
- Widening the roadway to accommodate additional vehicle lanes, bike lanes, and a turning radius for a sixty-five (65) foot long design vehicle (WB-65).
- Installing a new Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sidewalk on both sides of Fulkerth Road with detectable warning (tactile strips) as required and accessible ramps at the curb returns;
- Installing pedestrian pass-through islands;
- Installing white reflectors on top of the concrete curbing at the crossing on both sides of Fulkerth Road;
- Installing concrete curbing;
- Repairing and replacing pavement areas in the vicinity of the crossing area; and
- Installing a number of signs as noted on the plans.

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

All Parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including other Commission General Orders and the latest version of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD). Temporary traffic controls shall be in compliance with the latest version of the CAMUTCD.

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 this office, the time to

complete the project may be extended. A written request for a time extension must include concurrence letters by interested 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 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 CPUC web site at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/crossings/>. This report may be submitted electronically to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

At the conclusion of the project, UPRR should submit an updated electronic inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the Federal Railroad Administration, reflecting the changes. 49 CFR 234 Section 234.409 requires railroads to submit periodic crossing inventory updates a minimum of once every three years. The Commission requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

If you have any questions, please contact Marvin Kennix at (916) 928-3809 or email at mlk@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

Cc: Michael Pitcock
Kevin Yoder

