

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



June 29, 2016

File Number: XREQ 2016060001

Charles L. Covolo, P.E.
Senior Civil Engineer
City of Modesto
1010 10th Street, 3rd Floor
Modesto, CA 95354

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Salida Boulevard/Dakota Avenue/Murphy Road At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 001B-107.50 and DOT No. 752845U, in the City of Modesto, County of Stanislaus.

Dear Mr. Covolo:

This refers to your letter received by us via email on June 1, 2016, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Salida Boulevard/Dakota Avenue/Murphy Road at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) tracks in the City of Modesto (City), County of Stanislaus. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001B-107.50 and DOT No. 752845U.

This project involves alterations to the crossing and its approaches prior to its re-opening. The crossing has been temporarily closed (k-rail blocks the approaches) while part of Salida Boulevard has been operating as a temporary on ramp for southbound traffic on State Route (SR) 99. This temporary on ramp has been made necessary as road work is being done on the nearby SR 99 /Pelandale Avenue Interchange Reconstruction Project. The alterations to the crossing and its approaches are being proposed so that the crossing will be safer than what it was temporarily closed.

The warning devices, two Commission Standard 9s (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) have remained in place and continue to function normally. UPRR operates 20 freight trains across the two tracks of the crossing per day at a maximum speed of 70 mph. At the crossing, Salida Boulevard was considered a minor collector roadway before temporary closure of the crossing. It is expected to again be a minor collector roadway when the crossing is re-opened. The crossing has two lanes, one for northbound and the other for southbound traffic. Before temporary closure, there was an average daily vehicle traffic (ADT) of 2000.

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

- Removing the STOP (R1-1) sign and STOP pavement marking for southbound Salida Boulevard traffic at the intersection adjacent to the crossing;
- Installing a STOP (R1-1) sign and STOP pavement marking for westbound Dakota Avenue traffic at the intersection adjacent to the crossing;

- Installing a STOP (R1-1) sign and STOP pavement marking for eastbound Murphy Road traffic at the intersection adjacent to the crossing;
- Installing a stop line in advance of the warning device on both Salida Boulevard approaches;
- Installing a railroad crossing “RXR” pavement marking on the southbound Salida Boulevard approach;
- Installing rumble strips and RUMBLE STRIPS AHEAD warning sign on the southbound Salida Boulevard approach;
- Installing a 4 foot shoulder for allowable vehicle turning movements;
- Installing Caltrans “Type E” delineators on Salida Boulevard;
- Installing W1-8R (chevron) signs on Salida Boulevard;
- Installing a number of other signs, including W10-1, W10-3R, W10-3L, R8-8, W3-1, W3-4, W4-4p, W1-1a, and R3-8c; and
- Installing striping.

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,

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

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

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Cc: Peggy Ygbuhay

