

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



August 4, 2016

File Number: XREQ 2016060004

Andrew Benelli
Assistant Public Works Director
City of Fresno
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the McKinley Avenue At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 001B-202.50 and DOT No. 757321A, in the City of Fresno, Fresno County.

Dear Mr. Benelli:

This refers to your letter received by us via email on June 23, 2016, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the McKinley Avenue at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) tracks in the City of Fresno (City) in Fresno county. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001B-202.50 and DOT No. 757321A.

The two-track crossing is equipped with five Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices. UPRR operates 20 freight trains per day at a maximum speed of 50 mph at the crossing. McKinley Avenue crossing is an urban, principal arterial roadway with average daily vehicle traffic of 26,000. The crossing west bound approach has two through lanes and one dedicated left turn lane, and on the eastbound approach, two through lanes.

The proposed alterations for this project will be done in support of the California High-Speed Rail Authority's high-speed rail project in order to improve safety at the McKinley Avenue crossing due to traffic being diverted to and across this crossing during the demolition of the existing and subsequent construction of the new Clinton Avenue overhead. The new Clinton Avenue overhead, as is the existing overhead, will be adjacent to the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) State Route (SR) 99/Clinton Avenue interchange. The placement of two new high-speed rail tracks requires the new Clinton Avenue overhead and the SR 99/Clinton Avenue interchange be moved to the west. Caltrans is working in conjunction with the City for this project.

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

- Installing a pre-signal for westbound traffic across the crossing;
- Upgrading the traffic signals at the McKinley Avenue/Golden State Boulevard intersection to facilitate the pre-signal and other modifications;
- Installing 20 seconds of railroad advance preemption for the crossing;

- Eliminating the westbound left turn lane to prevent left turn movement of McKinley Avenue westbound traffic onto Golden State Boulevard;
- Upgrading the traffic signals for preemption at the adjacent McKinley Avenue/West Avenue intersection;
- Providing loop detection for eastbound traffic on McKinley Avenue to work with the upgraded traffic signals and preemption at the McKinley Avenue/West Avenue intersection; and
- Installing signage and 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, Caltrans, 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.

UPRR must ensure that Emergency Notification Signs are installed to comply with Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 234.309.

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.

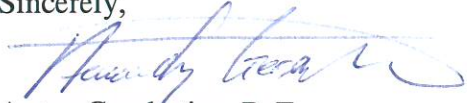
Within 30 days after completion of this project, the City shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the CPUC web site at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/crossings/>. This report may be submitted electronically to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

At the conclusion of the project, the City 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.

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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: Mary Schroll
Garth Fernandez

