

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



September 20, 2016

File Number: XREQ 2016090003

State Street

City of Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County

Rebecca Bjork  
Public Works Director  
City of Santa Barbara  
630 Garden Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93103

**SENT VIA E-MAIL**

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the State Street At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 001E-367.50, DOT No. 745601T, in the City of Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County.**

Dear Ms. Bjork:

This refers to your letter dated July 11, 2016, received by us on July 19, 2016, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission or CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the State Street at-grade crossing (crossing) of Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Santa Barbara Subdivision in the City of Santa Barbara (City), Santa Barbara County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001E-367.50 and DOT No. 745601T.

The two-track crossing is equipped with two Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices. The crossing is approximately 43 feet south of the signalized intersection of State Street and Yanonali Street, and approximately 405 feet north of the intersection of State Street and Mason Street. It is adjacent to the National Railroad Passenger Co. (Amtrak) Santa Barbara Station to the west. UPRR operates approximately two freight trains per day at a maximum speed of 40 mph, and Amtrak operates approximately 12 passenger trains per day over the crossing at a speed of 5 mph as trains approach or leave the Santa Barbara AMTRAK station immediately adjacent to crossing. The average daily vehicle traffic on State Street is 8,800.

The proposed alterations as indicated in the request letter and/or shown in the attachments include:

- Widening the sidewalks and removing one southbound vehicle lane. The new crossing configuration will include one southbound travel lane, two northbound travel lanes, and two five-foot wide bicycle lanes (one each direction). The curb realignments will take place south of the railroad tracks;
- Installing a new traffic signal for the intersection of State Street and Mason Street, which is approximately 405 feet south of the crossing;
- Installing a pre-signal at the crossing for northbound traffic, as a modification of the State Street and Yanonali Street traffic signal;
- Modifying the railroad pre-emption hold phase from flashing all-red to limited service;

- Installing southbound queue loop detectors to prevent queuing over the railroad tracks;
- Installing 8-inch raised medians on both approaches to the crossing;
- Installing two (2) median-mounted Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) warning devices: one on each north and south side of the crossing; and
- Applying California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, including R8-8 “DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS”, R10-6 “STOP HERE ON RED”, and “RXR” advance warning signs.

The Commission’s Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) staff has investigated the City’s request, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City and UPRR 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.

All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD).

UPRR must ensure that Emergency Notification Signs are installed to comply with CFR 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.

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. 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, the City shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G titled 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/crossings>. This report may be submitted electronically to [rceb@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto: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) to the FRA, reflecting the changes. 49 CFR 234 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).

Rebecca Bjork  
XREQ 2016090003  
September 20, 2016  
Page 3 of 3

If you have any questions, please contact Oliver Garcia at (213) 576-7077 or [oliver.garcia@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:oliver.garcia@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anton Garabetian', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

O. GARCIA FOR ANTON

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

(SENT VIA E-MAIL)

C: Daniel Moreno, UPRR  
Derrick Bailey, City of Santa Barbara