

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



November 14, 2016

File Number: XREQ 2016100008
Main Street
City of El Centro, Imperial County

Abraham Campos, PE
Senior Engineer
City of El Centro
1275 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Main Street At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing Identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001BN-699.50 and DOT Crossing No. 760868W in the City of El Centro, Imperial County

Dear Mr. Campos:

This refers to your letter dated April 18, 2016, and received by us on October 17, 2016, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the Main Street at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Calexico Subdivision tracks, in the City of El Centro (City), Imperial County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001BN-699.50 and DOT No. 760868W.

The crossing is comprised of two tracks and a four-lane roadway with two through lanes for each direction of traffic. The crossing is equipped with two curb-mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices. Based on information provided by the railroad in November 2016, UPRR operates approximately two through trains and four switching trains daily at the crossing. Most trains operating through the crossing are performing switching movements at speeds under 20 MPH. The average daily traffic at Main Street is approximately 12,000 vehicles.

The City, in coordination with UPRR, proposes the following alterations at the crossing as described in the request letter and shown in the plans attached to the request:

- Remove the two existing Commission Standard 9 warning devices;
- Install two curb-mounted Commission Standard 9-A (Standard 9 with additional overhead flashing light signals on a cantilever arm) warning devices;
 - Install one curb-mounted Commission Standard 9-A warning device in the northeast quadrant of the crossing;
 - Install one curb-mounted Commission Standard 9-A warning device in the southwest quadrant of the crossing;
 - Install backlights (flashing light signal pairs visible from the opposite side of the track) along each of the two sidewalks for pedestrians, and above each of the four lanes for vehicles;

- Maintain warning signs and markings, including W10-1 “RXR” signs, W48(CA) “2 TRACKS” signs, RXR advance warning markings, and stop line markings compliant with California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD);
- Construct curb and gutter;
- Construct Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sidewalks along both north and south sides of Main Street;
- Install ADA-compliant detectable warning along each of the four sidewalk approaches;
- Install precast concrete panel crossing surfaces to allow for sidewalk alignment;
- Construct driveways within the railroad right-of-way for railroad maintenance access; and,
- Additional sign, marking, and street light alterations as shown in the plans attached to the request.

The Commission’s Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request by the City and finds that 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, the improvements as described in your request received on October 17, 2016, and summarized above, are authorized.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with current version of the CA MUTCD, published by the California Department of Transportation. Upon the temporary closure of the crossing during construction, channelization, such as K-Rail or fencing, shall be provided on the crossing approach to prevent public access to the crossing.

All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and the CA MUTCD.

UPRR must ensure that Emergency Notification Systems signs are installed to comply with CFR 234.309.

This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental 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 RCEB, the time to complete the project may be extended. Any written request for a time extension must include evidence of agreement between the 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, UPRR shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a Commission Standard Form G titled *Report of Completed Changes at Rail Crossings*. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the CPUC web site Form G page at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/crossings>. This report may be submitted electronically to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov as outlined on the web page.

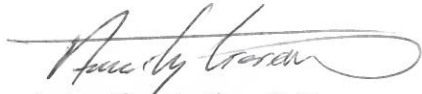
At the conclusion of the project, UPRR should electronically submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the FRA, reflecting the changes. 49 CFR 234 Section 234.409 requires the railroads to submit periodic crossing inventory updates a

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minimum of once every three years. Commission requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov .

If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Schumacher at kevin.schumacher@cpuc.ca.gov or (415) 310-9807.

Sincerely,



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

C: **(SENT VIA EMAIL)**
Alexander Popovici, Union Pacific Railroad

