

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



February 27, 2017

File Number: XREQ 2017010005
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 January 12, 2017, received by us on January 23, 2017, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission or CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the State Street at-grade highway-rail 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. 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 National Railroad Passenger Co.(AMTRAK) station immediately adjacent to crossing. The average daily traffic on State Street is 8,800 vehicle with a maximum roadway speed of 25 mph.

The City proposes the following alterations as indicated in the request letter and/or shown in the attachments:

- Reconstructing the sidewalks to provide American with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible pathways, including detectable warning surfaces on all four quadrants;
- Installing pedestrian crossing gates, flashing light signals, self-closing swing gates, and channelization on all four quadrants;
- Eliminating approximately 75 feet of the adjacent AMTRAK platform to remove direct access from the station onto State Street, and installing signage to inform pedestrians of the updated station access;

- Installing advance preemption for the existing State Street-Yanonali railroad-traffic signal interconnection circuitry;
- Relocating the northwest quadrant Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning device with the realignment of the adjacent curb line for improved visibility; and
- Applying California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, including R9-3 “NO PEDESTRIAN CROSSING”, and R15-8 “LOOK” 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 as summarized above. All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and the latest version of the CA MUTCD, published by the California Department of Transportation. The City must complete all of the proposed alterations mentioned above for RCEB to consider this GO 88-B application closed.

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.

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.

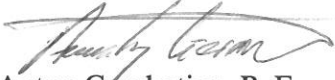
Within 30 days after completion of this project, the City shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G titled Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossings and Separation. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the Commission web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

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.

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If you have any questions, please contact Oliver Garcia at (213) 576-7077 or oliver.garcia@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)

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

