

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



March 28, 2017

File Number: XREQ 2017030001
Mills Avenue
City of Whittier, County of Los Angeles

Carl Hassel
Capital Project Administrator
City of Whittier – Department of Public Works
13230 Penn Street
Whittier, CA 90602

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Mills Avenue At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing Number 001BBJ-500.38 and DOT Number 761432Y in the City of Whittier, County of Los Angeles

Dear Mr. Hassel:

This refers to your letter, received by us on March 2, 2017, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the Mills Avenue highway-rail at-grade crossing (crossing) of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Los Nieto Subdivision, Brea Chemical Industrial Lead track in the City of Whittier (City), County of Los Angeles (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001BBJ-500.38 and DOT No. 761432Y.

The crossing consists of one track and a five-lane north-south roadway. Mills Avenue forms a four-leg intersection with Lambert Road approximately 30 feet south of the crossing. The Whittier Greenway Trail, a bikeway and pedestrian pathway, ends at approximately 50 feet north of the crossing. The intersection is under shared-jurisdiction with the County of Los Angeles and traffic signal is maintained by the County. The crossing is equipped with one curb-mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning device for each approach. UPRR operates approximately two freight trains daily, with a maximum speed of 20 miles per hour. The average daily traffic at Mills Avenue is approximately 12,000 vehicles.

The City, in cooperation with the County and UPRR, proposes the following alterations at the crossing and as shown per plan:

- Construct Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant concrete sidewalks at the crossing;
- Install ADA-compliant detectable warning tactile strips on each quadrant of sidewalk approach;
- Restripe northbound traffic with one through lane and one bike lane;
- Install ADA compliant curb ramps for crosswalk approaches of the intersection;
- Install cable fencing at the sidewalk approaches of the crossing and at the end of trail pathway along the west curb of Mills Avenue;

- Apply California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage, including W10-1, W10-2, R8-8 “DO NOT STOP ON TRACK” sign, “KEEP CLEAR” and “RXR” railroad limit pavement markings.

The Commission’s Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request by the County and finds that it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City, County 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 March 2, 2017, and summarized above, are authorized. All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and the current 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.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with current version of 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 concurrence letters by involved parties in support of the time extension. If an extension is requested, RCEB may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

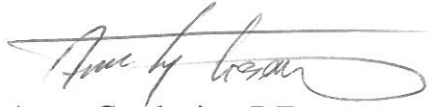
Within 30 days after completion of this project, the City shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G title *Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossings and Separation*. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the CPUC web site 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 minimum of once every three years. Commission requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

Carl Hassel
XREQ 2017030001
March 28, 2017
Page 3 of 3

If you have any questions, please contact Chi Cheung To at (213) 576-5766 or cct@cpuc.ca.gov .

Sincerely,



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

C: **(SENT VIA EMAIL)**
Bill Swindle, County of Los Angeles
Daniel Moreno, UPRR

