

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

320 W. 4TH STREET, SUITE 500
ORANGE, CA 90013



April 6, 2017

File Number: XREQ 2017030006
La Paz Road Overpass
City of Mission Viejo, Orange County

Mark Chagnon
Director of Public Works
City of Mission Viejo
200 Civic Center
Mission Viejo, CA 92691

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Modify the La Paz Road Grade-Separated Highway-Rail Crossing, Identified as CPUC Crossing No. 101OR-190.40-A and DOT No. 026776M, in the City of Mission Viejo, County of Orange

Dear Mr. Chagnon:

This refers to your letter, dated and received by us on March 21, 2017, requesting authorization pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the La Paz Road grade-separated highway-rail crossing (crossing) over the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) Orange Line tracks, in the City of Mission Viejo (City), County of Orange (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 101OR-190.40-A and DOT No. 026776M.

The crossing consists of two bridge structures over two SCRRA mainline tracks. Each bridge carries two vehicular lanes, one bike lane and a sidewalk. SCRRA and the National Passenger Railroad Corporation (Amtrak) operate approximately 56 passenger trains daily with a maximum speed of 90 miles per hour (MPH); BNSF operates four freight trains daily with a maximum speed of 55 MPH. The annual average daily traffic at La Paz Road is approximately 38,300 vehicles.

The City proposes to widen each of bridge structure by 19 feet 6 inches to provide three vehicular lanes, a bike lane and a sidewalk with railing enhancements in each direction. In addition, the City will also address the existing structural deficiencies and construct pier protection for the structures.

No temporary impaired clearance is requested for construction. All proposed permanent clearances, as shown in submitted plans, comply with minimum clearance requirements stated in Commission GO 26-D.

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 SCRRA are in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, the

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improvements as described in your request letter dated March 21, 2017, and summarized above, are authorized. All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD), published by the California Department of Transportation. The City must complete all the proposed alterations mentioned above for RCEB to consider this GO 88-B application closed.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with the current version of the CA MUTCD.

This project is statutorily exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended [California Public Resources Code §21080.13].


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 re-evaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, 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 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, SCRRA shall electronically submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the FRA, reflecting the changes. Commission requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

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

Sincerely,



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

cc: **(SENT VIA E-MAIL)**
Darrell Maxey, SCRRA