

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



March 27, 2017

File Number: XREQ 2017030007
South Cutting Boulevard
City of Richmond, Contra Costa County

Yader Bermudez
Director
City of Richmond
450 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA 94804

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the South Cutting Boulevard At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 001A-10.80 and DOT No. 751678U in the City of Richmond, Contra Costa County.

Dear Mr. Bermudez:

This refers to your letter dated March 20, 2017, received by us via email on March 22, 2017, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the South Cutting Boulevard at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) tracks in the City of Richmond (City), Contra Costa County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001A-10.80 and DOT No. 751678U.

The existing configuration consists of a triple-track crossing over a five lane roadway with two sidewalks, two Commission Standard 9-A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning devices, advance railroad preemption, raised concrete medians on each approach, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant detectable warning strips in the northeast and northwest quadrants. The south sidewalk is currently closed with pipe rail barriers in the southeast and southwest quadrants due to the poor sidewalk condition.

44 passenger trains and 14 freight trains operate per day at a maximum speed of 79 mph over the crossing. The average daily traffic on South Cutting Boulevard is 12,909 vehicles.

The proposed alterations, as indicated in the City's request letter and/or shown on the plans, shall consist of:

- Reopening and reconstructing the south sidewalk with a raised concrete sidewalk;
- Installing Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) warning devices in the northwest and southeast quadrants at a minimum of 15 feet from centerline of track;

- Installing detectable warning strips in the southeast and southwest quadrants adjacent to the automatic warning devices;
- Refurbishing and widening the crossing surface with concrete panels and rubber flangeway inserts;
- Extending the curb in the northeast and southwest quadrants;
- Installing two pedestrian curb ramps; and
- Applying California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) staff has investigated the request by the City and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City and UPRR (Parties) are in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, the City may proceed with the improvements as described in its request letter and attachments, and summarized above. The City must complete all 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 Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 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.

All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and 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. A written request for a time extension must include concurrence letters by interested 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 completed Commission Standard Form G. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the CPUC web site 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 submit an updated electronic inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the Federal Railroad Administration, reflecting the changes. Title 49 CFR Section 234.409 requires the railroads to submit periodic crossing inventory updates a minimum of once every three years. The 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 Felix Ko at (415) 703-3722 or email at felix.ko@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anton Garabetian", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

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

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Cc: Kevin Yoder, UPRR
Andy Yeung, City

