

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



April 13, 2017

File Number: XREQ2017030011

Milpas 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 Milpas Street At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 001E-368.50, DOT No. 745614U, in the City of Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County.

Dear Ms. Bjork:

This refers to your letter dated March 22, 2017, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission or CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Milpas Street at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Santa Barbara Subdivision tracks in the City of Santa Barbara (City), Santa Barbara County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001E-368.50 and DOT No. 745614U.

The crossing consists of two main tracks and a two-lane roadway, and is equipped with two Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices. A raised curb median is located north of the tracks. The crossing is approximately 105 feet south of the signalized intersection with Indio Muerto Street and the SR 101 on/off ramp, and approximately 400 feet north of the signalized intersection with Calle Puerto Vallarta. UPRR operates approximately two freight trains and Amtrak operates approximately 12 passenger trains per day over the crossing at a speed of 76 mph. Milpas Street experiences an average daily vehicle traffic of 10,100, along with heavy pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

The proposed alterations as indicated in the request letter and/or shown in the attachments include:

- Constructing new curb, gutter, and sidewalk on the east side of Milpas Street. Sidewalk will include pedestrian channelization at the crossing. Existing access from the adjacent commercial property onto Milpas Street will be consolidated into two driveways south of the crossing;
- Installing double-sided crossbucks, and extra pair of flashing light signals on the existing Commission Standard 9 warning device masts, for pedestrians on each approach opposite vehicle traffic;
- Adding pedestrian channelization to the existing west side sidewalk;

- Removing the pedestrian crosswalk crossing Milpas Street north of the crossing, and related curb ramp;
- Constructing an 8-inch high raised median, 130 feet long on the south approach to the crossing;
- Installing a pre-signal for northbound Milpas Street to address queuing over the rail crossing;
- Installing queue loops in the southbound direction to prevent queuing across the tracks;
- Changing the interconnected traffic signal operation from all red flash to limited service during preemption;
- Installing supervised gate down circuitry; 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 summarized above. All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD), published by the California Department of Transportation.

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

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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 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

