

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



November 21, 2017

File Number: XREQ 2017100008
Cohansey Avenue
Gilroy, Santa Clara County

Kristi Abrams
Community Development Director
City of Gilroy
7351 Rosanna Street
Gilroy, CA 95020

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Cohansey Avenue At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 001E-75.15 and DOT No. 755176W in the City of Gilroy, County of Santa Clara.

Dear Ms. Abrams:

This refers to your letter dated August 8, 2017, and received by us via email on October 13, 2017, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Cohansey Avenue at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) track in the City of Gilroy (City), County of Santa Clara. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001E-75.15 and DOT No. 755176W.

The configuration consists of a single-track crossing over a two lane roadway with one Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) warning device, one Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate) warning device, and one Commission Standard 9-A (Commission Standard 9 with additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning device. 8 freight trains and 8 passenger trains operate per day at a maximum speed of 79 miles per hour over the crossing. The crossing average daily traffic is 314 vehicles.

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

- Installing a new leg on the west side of the Cohansey Avenue and Monterey Road intersection;
- Widening the concrete panel crossing surface;
- Installing new crosswalks at the north and west legs of the Cohansey Avenue and Monterey Road intersection;
- Installing curb ramps in the northeast, northwest, and southwest quadrants of the Cohansey Avenue and Monterey Road intersection;
- Installing a raised curb concrete sidewalk through the north side of the crossing;
- Installing a raised concrete median on the east and west approaches;
- Installing asphalt dikes in the northeast and southwest quadrants;

- Installing a barricade in the northeast quadrant, closing the outside lane to traffic;
- Installing traffic signals at the Cohansey Avenue and Monterey Road intersection and interconnecting with the new rail warning devices to provide railroad preemption;
- Installing a pre-signal on the east approach;
- Installing a new Commission Standard 9-A in the northeast quadrant and a new median-mounted Commission Standard 9 for the westbound approach;
- Installing a new Commission Standard 9 in the southwest quadrant and a new median-mounted Commission Standard 9 for the eastbound approach;
- Installing Americans with Disabilities Act compliant detectable warning surfaces a minimum of 12 feet from centerline of track on all sidewalk approaches to the crossing; and
- Applying California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, including “KEEP CLEAR” pavement markings, R10-6 “STOP HERE ON RED” signs, and R3-1 Active “NO RIGHT TURN” signs.

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 the latest version of the CAMUTCD. This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended [California Public Resources Code 21084].

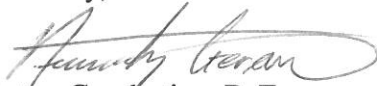
This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within three years of the date of this letter. Upon written request to this office, the time to complete the project may be extended. A written request for a time extension must include concurrence 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, the City 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. 49 CFR 234 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.

If you have any questions, please contact Willard Lam at (415) 703-1327 or email at WLM@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

Cc: Kevin Yoder, UPRR
Leo Trujillo, Hatch Mott MacDonald

