

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



November 14, 2017

File Number: XREQ 2017110001
State Route 156
Castroville, Monterey County

Steve Beaudoin
Steve.Beaudoin@dot.ca.gov
Associate Right of Way Agent
California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
3232 South Higuera Street, Suite 200
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the State Route 156 Grade Separated Highway–Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 001E-106.65-A and DOT No. 752332V, in the City of Castroville, Monterey County.

Dear Mr. Beaudoin:

This refers to your letter, dated May 4, 2017, received by us on November 6, 2017, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the State Route 156 grade separated highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) track in the City of Castroville (City), Monterey County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001E-106.65-A and DOT No. 752332V.

The crossing consists of two above grade bridges carrying eastbound and westbound vehicular traffic over a single UPRR track. The crossing existing vertical clearance of 21 feet – 7 inches does not meet GO 26-D requirement of 22 feet – 6 inches. Amtrak operates two passenger trains per day with a maximum speed limit of 70 miles per hour (MPH) and UPRR operates approximately three freight trains per day with a maximum speed limit of 60 MPH at the crossing.

The proposed alterations to the crossing will maintain the existing vertical clearance of 21 feet – 7 inches. In the GO 26-D variance request letter, Caltrans states “[e]very effort is being made to maintain vertical roadway in compliance with General Order 26-D. The proposed clearance at the structure is the maximum achievable given the physical constraints of the railroad property without reconstructing the north structure of State Route 156 Castroville Overhead. Replacement of the structure would require raising the profile of the approach and departure roadway, bridge reconstruction, and retaining walls along much of the northern right of way which cannot be met due to excessive cost.” This bridge project is scheduled for reconstruction in 2019.

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

- Widening the northern bridge;
- Installing Concrete Barrier Type 736/736R and Chain Link Fence Type 7; and
- Installing pier protection.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request by the Caltrans. **The approval of this application is based upon the condition that the Commission approves the Caltrans variance request to limit the bridge clearance to 21 feet and 7 inches.** Upon Commission approval of the variance request, and as Caltrans and UPRR (Parties) 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 and attachments, and summarized above. Caltrans must complete all the proposed alternations mentioned above for RCEB to consider this GO 88-B application closed.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with Section 8A.08, Temporary Traffic Control Zones, of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD), 2014 Edition, published by the California Department of Transportation.

All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and 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 21080.13(a)].

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, Caltrans shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form. 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 as outlined on the web page.

At the conclusion of the project, UPRR should submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form to the FRA, reflecting the changes. CPUC 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 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