

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



March 27, 2018

File Number: XREQ2018030008

Butterfly Lane
Santa Barbara County

Steve Beaudoin
Associate Right of Way Agent
California Department of Transportation
3232 South Higuera Street, Suite 200
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Butterfly Lane At-Grade Pedestrian Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 001E-370.10-D, DOT No. 745617P, in Santa Barbara County.

Dear Mr. Beaudoin:

This refers to your letter dated March 7, 2018, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission or CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Butterfly Lane at-grade pedestrian-rail crossing (crossing) of Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Santa Barbara Subdivision in the County of Santa Barbara (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001E-370.10-D and DOT No. 745617P.

The one-track crossing is equipped with two Commission Standard 1-R (crossbuck sign installed on a retro-reflectorized wood or metal post) warning devices. Butterfly Lane is a County roadway southwest of the crossing, that dead-ends at the boundary of the UPRR right-of-way. On the northeast side of the crossing, there is an existing pedestrian underpass that runs beneath State Route 101 to Coast Village in the City of Santa Barbara. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes, as part of the project, to reconstruct the underpass to be American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant. UPRR operates approximately two freight trains and Amtrak operates approximately 12 passenger trains per day over the crossing at speeds of 40 mph and 50 mph respectively. The crossing currently averages approximately 305 pedestrians and bicycles per day.

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

- Installing Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices for pedestrians on each track approach;
- Reconstructing the pedestrian pathway across tracks with additional concrete panels, detectable warning tactile strips, and ADA compliant grading;
- Installing channelizing handrails and emergency exit swing gates;
- Installing fencing to restrict pedestrians from entering the railroad right-of-way; and
- Applying California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, including R8-11 "PUSH TO EXIT", and R5-1 "DO NOT ENTER" swing gate signs.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) has investigated Caltrans' request and finds that it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the Caltrans, County, and UPRR are in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, the improvements as described in your request dated March 7, 2018, and summarized above, are authorized. All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission GOs and the current version of the CA MUTCD, published by the Caltrans. Caltrans must complete all of 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 CFR 234.309.

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, Caltrans 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 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
Bert G. Johnson, County of Santa Barbara