

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

320 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 500  
Los Angeles, CA 90013



August 3, 2020

File Number: XREQ 2020060007  
Ventura Street  
City of Fresno, County of Fresno

Bruce W. Armistead  
Director of Operations and Maintenance  
California High Speed Rail Authority  
770 L Street, Suite 620  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Ventura Street At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 001B-205.90 and DOT Crossing No. 757334B, in the City of Fresno, County of Fresno.**

Dear Mr. Armistead:

This refers to your letter, dated June 24, 2020, received by us on June 26, 2020, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Ventura Street at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) tracks in the City of Fresno (City), County of Fresno. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001B-205.90 and DOT Crossing No. 757334B.

The northeasterly-southwesterly aligned four-lane triple track crossing is equipped with one Commission Standard 9A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning device, two Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with an automatic gate arm) warning devices, and two Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) warning devices. UPRR operates 12 freight trains per day at a maximum speed of 40 miles per hour. The average daily vehicle traffic across the crossing is 15,381.

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

- Eliminating the UPRR at-grade highway-rail crossing at Ventura Street.
- Constructing a bridge to carry two UPRR mainline tracks and one future track.
- Constructing a second bridge to carry four CHSRA high-speed rail tracks.
- Constructing new Ventura Street roadway with shoulders and sidewalks below the two bridges.
- Constructing a shoofly (detour) track to maintain UPRR and San Joaquin Valley Railroad rail service during construction of the UPRR bridge.

The new UPRR tracks crossing will be identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001B-205.90-B and DOT Crossing No. 972521Y, and for the CHSRA tracks as CPUC Crossing No. 135S-192.39-B and DOT Crossing No. 968522Y.

The underpass grade separations shall meet the vertical and horizontal clearance requirements of the Commission's GO 26-D, and the minimum vertical and horizontal clearance requirements per plans for the CHSRA and UPRR tracks.

The crossing project is part of Construction Package 1 (CP1) of the California High-Speed Train (CHST) Project involving the Fresno to Bakersfield Section of the CHST Project. CHSRA has prepared and filed a Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement, with findings of significant impact, for the overall Fresno to Bakersfield Section of the CHST Project. The overall Fresno to Bakersfield Section of the CHST Project, of which this project is a part, is not exempt from the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as amended [California Public Resources Code § 21080.13]; however, as this particular crossing project involves eliminating an existing at-grade crossing and replacing it with two underpass grade separations, this project is statutorily exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended [California Public Resources Code §21080.13].

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request by CHSRA and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the CHSRA, City, UPRR, and SJVR (Parties) agree to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, CHSRA may proceed with the alterations as described in its request letter and attachments and summarized above. CHSRA must complete all the proposed alterations mentioned above for RCEB to consider this GO 88-B application closed.

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

All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and the latest version of the CAMUTCD.

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 reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

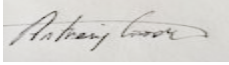
Within 30 days after completion of this project, the CHSRA shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G. Form G requirements can be obtained at the CPUC web site at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/crossings/>. This report may be submitted electronically to [rceb@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:rceb@cpuc.ca.gov).

At the conclusion of the project, CHSRA or UPRR must submit an updated electronic inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the Federal Railroad Administration reflecting the changes. The Commission requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to [rceb@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:rceb@cpuc.ca.gov).

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If you have any questions, please contact Marvin Kennix at (916) 928-3809 or email at [mlk@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:mlk@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Anton Garabetian, P. E.  
Program Manager  
Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch  
Rail Safety Division

Cc: Andrew Benelli, City  
Doug Woods, UPRR  
Joe Evans, SJVR