

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



October 6, 2020

File Number: XREQ 2020090015
Montebello Boulevard
City of Montebello, Los Angeles County

Andres Ramirez
Senior Project Manager
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
4900 Rivergrade Road, Suite A120
Irwindale, CA 91706

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Grade Separate the Montebello Boulevard At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing Number 003-8.53 and DOT Number 811074G in the City of Montebello, Los Angeles County

Dear Mr. Ramirez:

This refers to your letter, dated February 14, 2020, received by us on September 23, 2020, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to grade separate the Montebello Boulevard at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Los Angeles Subdivision mainline tracks in the City of Montebello (City), County of Los Angeles. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 003-8.53 and DOT No. 811074G.

The crossing consists of two tracks and a four-lane roadway, located approximately 200 feet southwest of the intersection of Montebello Boulevard and Olympic Boulevard. The crossing is equipped with four Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices. UPRR operates approximately forty-four freight trains daily with a maximum speed of 65 miles per hour (MPH) and Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA/Metrolink) operates approximately twelve passenger trains daily with a maximum speed of 79 MPH. The average daily traffic is approximately 21,692 vehicles.

The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) proposes the following alterations to the Montebello Boulevard crossing:

- Construct a 104-foot wide grade-separated railroad bridge structure with minimum 16 feet and 5 inches vertical clearance above Montebello Boulevard.
- Construct four-lane Montebello Boulevard roadway under the railroad bridge structure, including a raised center median, two bicycle lanes, and two sidewalks.

The proposed vehicular underpass and rail bridge structures meet the vertical and horizontal clearance requirements of the Commission's GO 26-D. No temporary clearance exceptions are requested during construction.

The grade separation project is proposed to be completed in stages. The nearby Greenwood Avenue at-grade crossing, identified as CPUC Number 003-8.30 and DOT Number 811075N and Vail Avenue at-grade crossing, identified as CPUC Number 003-7.80 and DOT Number 811077C, will be modified,

including signalization of the adjacent roadway intersections, prior to closure of Montebello Boulevard. Temporary two-track-shoofly will be installed to maintain rail traffic during construction of the bridge. Once construction of the temporary railroad shoofly commences, the Montebello Boulevard grade crossing will be closed to vehicles and pedestrians between Olympic Boulevard to the north and the intersection of Montebello Way and Greenwood Ave to the south. Advance message advisory and detour signage, including temporary barricades, will be used to direct motorists and pedestrians during closure. Through-traffic on Montebello Boulevard will be diverted to via Whittier Boulevard to the north and Washington Boulevard to the south to the Greenwood Avenue crossing for northbound traffic and the Vail Avenue crossing for southbound traffic.

The anticipated modifications to the Vail Avenue and Greenwood Avenue grade crossings are not authorized by this letter, and will require separate requests for approval once concurrence is reached by all parties.

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 SGVCOG's request and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the SGVCOG, UPRR, and the City (Parties) 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 February 14, 2020, and summarized above are authorized. All Parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including other Commission GOs and the latest version of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD), published by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

The existing at-grade crossing DOT No. 811074G shall be retired. The new grade-separated crossing shall be identified as CPUC Crossing No. 003-8.53-B and DOT No. 975519H for the roadway underpass.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with Section 8A.08, Temporary Traffic Control Zones, of the CA MUTCD, 2014 Edition, published by Caltrans.

This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within six 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, RCEB may re-evaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

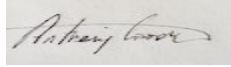
Within 30 days after completion of this project, SGVCOG shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G title *Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossings and Separation*. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the CPUC web site at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/crossings>. This report may be submitted electronically to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov as outlined on the web page.

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. Commission requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

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If you have any questions, please contact Matthew Cervantes at (213) 266-4716 or mci@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

C: **(SENT VIA EMAIL)**

Mark Christoffels, SGVCOG
James Enriquez, City of Montebello
Peggy Ygbuhay, UPRR