

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



May 10, 2021

File Number: XREQ 2021040001  
SR 20 Russian River Bridge  
County of Mendocino

Trevor Taylor  
Acting Senior Right of Way Agent  
California Department of Transportation  
1031 Butte Street, MS 35  
Redding, CA 96001

**SENT VIA E-MAIL**

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the SR 20 Russian River Bridge Grade-Separated Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 005-120.50-A and DOT No. 498810U, in the County of Mendocino.**

Dear Mr. Taylor:

This refers to your letter, dated March 28, 2021, received by us on April 2, 2021, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the State Rout (SR) 20 Russian River Bridge grade-separated highway-rail crossing (crossing) of North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA) tracks in the County of Mendocino (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 005-120.50-A and DOT No. 498810U.

There is currently no rail traffic over the crossing. NCRA is the State agency charged with bringing freight operations to the Highway 101 corridor.

The proposed alterations, as indicated in the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) request letter and/or shown on its plans, shall consist of:

- Demolition and replacement of the existing SR 20 Russian River Bridge overhead structure with a new grade-separated structure adjacent to the old structure over the NCRA track.
- The new grade-separated structure will be designated as CPUC Crossing No. 005-120.50-A and DOT Crossing No. 979403V.

During construction, Caltrans is requesting a temporary impaired vertical clearance of 20 feet 6 inches. Commission General Order (GO) 26-D, Section 2.1, requires a minimum vertical clearance of 22 feet 6 inches. Caltrans requests a temporary deviation from the vertical clearance requirements of GO 26-D. The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) staff contacted NCRA regarding the temporary deviation, and their representative indicated they do not oppose the request. The final minimum vertical clearance will be 27 feet 8 inches.

The Commission's RCEB investigated the request by Caltrans and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As Caltrans and NCRA agree to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, Caltrans may proceed with the alterations as described in its request

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letter and summarized above. Caltrans must complete all the proposed alterations mentioned above for RCEB to consider this GO 88-B application closed.

Caltrans 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) Revision 5, published by Caltrans.

Caltrans shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission GOs and the latest version of the CAMUTCD.

This project is statutory exempt from the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended [California Public Resources Code 21080.13].

Pursuant to Commission Resolution SX-76 and Section 16.2 of GO 26-D, Caltrans is granted a temporary deviation from GO 26-D, Section 2.1 and is authorized a temporary overhead vertical clearance of not less than 20 feet 6 inches above the top of the highest rail to the lowest point on the overhead vehicular bridge structure during construction, including construction false work.

Caltrans shall notify NCRA and the Commission's Rail Safety Division— Railroad Operations and Safety Branch (ROSB) and RCEB at least 15 days but not more than 30 days in advance of the date when Caltrans will create the temporary reduced vertical clearance. For the Commission, this notification may be submitted electronically to [rceb@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:rceb@cpuc.ca.gov).

NCRA shall issue instructions to all individuals responsible for operation of trains over these tracks of the temporary reduced vertical clearance of 20 feet 6 inches and shall submit the instructions in advance of the date when Caltrans will create the temporary reduced vertical clearance to ROSB and RCEB. For the Commission, this notification may be submitted electronically to [rceb@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:rceb@cpuc.ca.gov).

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.

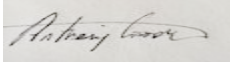
Within 30 days after completion of this project, Caltrans shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G. Form G requirements can be obtained at the Commission's website at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Crossings>. This report may be submitted electronically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

At the conclusion of the project, NCRA 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 David Stewart at (916) 928-2515 or email at [atm@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:atm@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Anton Garabetian".

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

cc:

Mitch Stogner, NCRA