

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



May 28, 2021

File Number: XREQ2021050008
American Avenue
County of Fresno

Sebastian Artal
Senior Engineer
County of Fresno
2220 Tulare Street, 7th Floor
Fresno, CA 93721

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the American Avenue At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 001B-211.80 and DOT Crossing No. 756878V, in the County of Fresno.

Dear Mr. Artal:

This refers to your letter received by us on May 7, 2021, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) track, in the County of Fresno (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001B-211.80, and DOT Crossing No. 756878V.

The American Avenue crossing has one track aligned in a northwesterly-southeasterly direction and two lanes aligned in an easterly-westerly direction. The crossing is equipped with two Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices. UPRR operates 21 freight trains per day at a maximum speed of 70 miles per hour through the crossing. The average daily vehicle traffic across the crossing is 1,900.

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

- Removing the existing Commission Standard 9 devices.
- Realigning the intersection of American Avenue and Golden State Boulevard.
- Widening the roadway to accommodate three additional vehicle lanes, shoulders, bike lanes (on Golden State Boulevard only), and the appropriate truck turning radius.
- Installing a concrete panel crossing surface to accommodate the widening of the roadway.
- Installing a 12-foot-wide raised median on both sides of the crossing.
- Installing a gore island in the southwest quadrant of the crossing for right turn channelization.
- Installing a Commission Standard 9-A (Commission Standard 9 with additional lights over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning device on the shoulder of the roadway and a Commission Standard 9 warning device on the raised median on the east side of the crossing for westbound approach.

- Installing a Commission Standard 9 warning device on the gore island and a Commission Standard No. 8 (flashing light signal assembly) warning device on the raised median on the west side of the crossing for eastbound approach.
- Installing a Commission Standard 9 warning device on the shoulder and a Commission Standard 9 on the gore island for the northbound right turn only approach from Golden State Boulevard towards the crossing.
- Installing a pre-signal for westbound traffic.
- Installing traffic signals at the intersection of American Avenue and Golden State Boulevard using equipment including, but not limited to, protected left turns, traffic signal poles, masts, signal heads, and vehicle detection.
- Installing 23 seconds of advance preemption railroad warning time in addition to other railroad warning time.
- Installing limited service for traffic signal operation during railroad preemption.
- Installing railroad circuitry (by UPRR) to accommodate advance preemption.
- Installing two (one near, one far) R3-1 “NO RIGHT TURN” blank-out signs for northbound traffic turning right from Golden State Boulevard towards the crossing.
- Installing a new signal house.
- Installing AC berms (berms to terminate 10 ft from the centerline of the track).
- Applying the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, including W10-1, W10-2, W10-4, R8-8 “DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS” signs, R10-6 “STOP HERE ON RED” signs, R3-4 “NO U-TURN” signs, “KEEP CLEAR” pavement markings, and “RXR” and railroad limit pavement markings.

The Commission’s Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request by the County and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As UPRR and the County (Parties) agree to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, the County may proceed with the alterations as described in its request letter and attachments and summarized above. The County 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 System signs are installed to comply with Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 234.309.

The County shall provide temporary traffic controls in compliance with Section 8A.08, Temporary Traffic Control Zones of the 2014 CAMUTCD, published by the California Department of Transportation.

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

This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended [California Public Resources Code 21084].

UPRR shall notify RCEB at least 45 days prior to the date that the new or modified interconnection is placed in service, by sending a notification to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

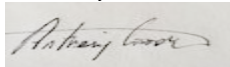
At the conclusion of the project, UPRR must submit an updated electronic inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the Federal Railroad Administration reflecting the changes. The Commission requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov. 49 CFR 234 Section 234.409 requires the railroads to submit periodic crossing inventory updates a minimum of once every three years.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, the County 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.

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.

If you have any questions, please contact Marvin Kennix at (916) 597-5760 or email at mlk@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

Cc:

Peggy Ygbuhay, UPRR
Steven White, County