

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



September 13, 2022

File Number: XREQ 2022090001
Watkins Avenue
Town of Atherton, San Mateo County

Rick Bartholomew
Manager, Rail Operations Signals
Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board
1250 San Carlos Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070-1306

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the At-Grade Watkins Avenue Rail Crossing

Dear Rick Bartholomew:

This refers to your letter dated and received by us on August 11, 2022, requesting authorization pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the at-grade Watkins Avenue rail crossing (crossing) of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain) tracks, in the Town of Atherton (Town), County of San Mateo. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing Number 105E-27.92 and DOT Number 754987S.

Watkins Avenue is two-lane roadway running in the northeast-southwest direction. The double-track crossing is equipped with two curb-mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate) warning device assemblies, two Commission Standard 9 pedestrian warning device assemblies, two emergency egress swing gates, detectable warning strips, and pedestrian channelization.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) reviewed the request by Caltrain. As the Town and Caltrain agree on the alterations and apportionment of costs under the provisions of GO 88-B, the following alterations, as described and specified in the request letter and its attachments, are authorized:

- Replace the two Commission Standard 9 pedestrian warning device assemblies in the southeast and southwest quadrants with two new Commission Standard 9 pedestrian warning device assemblies.
- Install two new Commission Standard 9-E (Commission Standard 9 installed on the departure side of the at-grade crossing, also known as exit gate) warning device assemblies in the northwest and southeast quadrants.
- Install additional concrete panels.
- Install raised pavement markers on the roadway edge.
- Install street lighting.
- Apply California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, including "KEEP CLEAR" pavement markings.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with the CA MUTCD, published by the California Department of Transportation. All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and CA MUTCD.

This authorization shall expire if the full scope of alterations is not complete within three years of the date of this letter. Caltrain may request time extension to complete the project in writing to RCEB at least 30 days prior to the expiration date. The time extension request shall include evidence of agreement by involved parties. Authorization may be revoked or modified if public convenience, necessity, or safety so requires.

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

The following requirements pertain to this authorization:

- The crossing shall have the configuration and operational characteristics as described and specified in the request letter and its attachments.
- Within 30 days after the authorized scope of alterations is complete, Caltrain shall notify RCEB of the alterations by submitting a Form G to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov. Form G requirements and forms are available on the CPUC website at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/crossings>.
- Caltrain shall electronically submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the FRA per 49 CFR § 234.411(c).

If you have any questions, please contact Eyitejumade "Ade" Sogbesan at (415) 370-1869 or es3@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

cc: **(SENT VIA EMAIL)**
Peggy Ygbuhay, UPPR
Robert Ovadia, Town of Atherton
Robert Tam, Caltrain