

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102



January 27, 2023

File Number: XREQ 2022110007
17th Avenue
Santa Cruz County

Matt Machado
Deputy County Administrative Officer
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street, Room 410
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the 17th Avenue Rail Crossing

Dear Matt Machado:

This refers to your letter initially dated October 7, 2022, revised on December 22, 2022, and received by us with concurrence by the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) on January 12, 2023, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the 17th Avenue rail crossing (crossing) of the SCCRTC track in the unincorporated area of Santa Cruz County (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing Number 137A-17.70 and DOT Number 768248K.

The crossing is a northbound-southbound, two-lane roadway that consists of one branch track. The crossing is equipped with one curb-mounted Commission Standard 9 (Flashing Light Signal Assembly with Automatic Gate Arm) warning device and one curb-mounted Commission Standard 9-A (Commission Standard 9 and Additional Flashing Light Signals over the Roadway on a Cantilevered Arm) warning device.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) reviewed the request by the County. As the County and SCCRTC 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:

- Install raised concrete medians on both approaches.
- Install a Class I bike trail in the northeast and southwest quadrants.
- Install LED W11-15 signs with W11-15P signs in advance of the crosswalk.
- Install a painted crosswalk.
- Install fencing between the trail and the tracks.
- Install 4-inch-wide solid line thermoplastic advanced warning strips with glass beads to slow bicyclists.
- Install R1-1 "STOP" signs for the trail.
- Construct Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant sidewalk in all quadrants of the crossing.
- Install ADA-compliant detectable warning surfaces in all quadrants.
- Install a new concrete panel crossing surface.
- Apply California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, including Yield pavement markings, "KEEP CLEAR"

pavement markings, R8-8 “DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS”, and R9-3bP “USE CROSSWALK” regulatory signs.

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. The County may request a time extension at least 30 days prior to the expiration date. The time extension request shall include evidence of agreement by the involved parties. This authorization may be revoked or modified if public convenience, necessity, or safety requires.

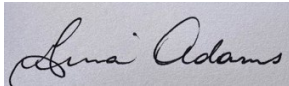
This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended. [California Public Resources Code §21084].

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, County and/or SCCRTC 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>.
- SCCRTC 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) 703-1869 or ES3@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Gina Adams
Program and Project Supervisor
Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch
Rail Safety Division

cc: Alfred Yalda, Zephyr Rail
Guy Preston, SCCRTC
Lon VanGemert, SPP