

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102



March 3, 2023

File Number: XREQ 2023010016
Churchill Avenue
City of Palo Alto, Santa Clara County

Stacy Cocke
Director, Signal and Transmission Power
Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board
1250 San Carlos Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070-1306

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

Dear Stacy Cocke:

This refers to your letter dated November 29, 2022, received by us on December 28, 2022, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (G.O.) 88-B, to alter the Churchill Avenue rail crossing (crossing) of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain) tracks in the City of Palo Alto (City), County of Santa Clara. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing Number 105E-30.88 and D.O.T. Number 754998E.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) is late in submitting this GO 88-B request authorization.

The crossing is a northeast-southwest, three-lane roadway that consists of two main tracks. The crossing is equipped with one curb-mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning device, one curb-mounted Commission Standard 9-A (Commission Standard 9 and additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning device, and four Commission Standard 9 pedestrian warning devices.

The RCEB reviewed the request by Caltrain. As the City and Caltrain agree on the alterations and apportionment of costs under the provisions of G.O. 88-B, the following alterations, as described and specified in the request letter and its attachments, are authorized:

- Install a two-speed check (2SC) system to replace the constant warning time crossing activation system.
- Replace the constant warning time devices (predictors) at grade crossings with audio frequency overlay equipment (AFTAC-II) and microprocessor-based equipment (ElectroLogIXS) with the traction power system.
- Replace the gate arm of the Commission Standard 9-A warning device with an articulated gate arm in the southwest quadrant.
- Remove the existing "CAUTION" signs.
- Apply California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD)-compliant signage and pavement markings, including "RXR" 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 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.

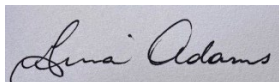
This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended. [California Public Resources Code §21084].

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.
- At least 45 days prior to the date that the new or modified train detection is placed in service, Caltrain shall notify RCEB of the scheduled date of the signal cutover by sending a notification to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.
- 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 (F.R.A.) inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the F.R.A. per 49 C.F.R. § 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: Brad Eggleston, City of Palo Alto