

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102



March 28, 2024

File Number: XREQ 2024030002
Watkins Avenue
Town of Atherton, San Mateo County

Aaron Marx
Project Manager
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 Watkins Avenue Rail Crossing

Dear Aaron Marx:

This refers to your letter dated March 8, 2024, received by us on March 8, 2024, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the 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.

The crossing is a Northeast-Southwest, two-lane roadway that consists of two main tracks. The crossing is equipped with two curb-mounted Commission Standard 9 (Flashing Light Signal Assembly with Automatic Gate Arm) warning devices, two Commission Standard 9-E (Commission Standard 9 installed on the departure side of the at-grade crossing (also known as an exit gate) warning devices, and two curb-mounted Commission Standard 9 pedestrian gate warning devices.

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:

- Install In-Service Wayside Crossing Controller Programming Application Logic update to integrate positive train control (PTC) crossing controls with the grade crossing warning system.

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 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 notification to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.
- Within 30 days after the authorized scope of alterations is complete, Town and/or 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 web site 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 C.F.R. § 234.411(c).

If you have any questions, please contact Eyitejumade “Ade” Sogbesan at (415) 471-6784 or es3@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew Bond".

Matthew Bond, P.E.
Program and Project Supervisor
Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch
Rail Safety Division

cc: Robert Ovadia, Town of Atherton
Stacy Cocke, Caltrain