

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



May 6, 2024

File Number: XREQ 2024030005

East Commercial Street

City of Willits

Dusty Duley
Community Development Director
City of Willits
111 E. Commercial Street
Willits, CA 95490

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the East Commercial Street Rail Crossing

Dear Dusty Duley:

This refers to your letter dated October 24, 2023 and received by us on March 15, 2024, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the East Commercial Street rail crossing (crossing) of the California Western Railroad (CWR) tracks, in the City of Willits (City), County of Mendocino. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing Number 005-139.50 and DOT Number 499064S.

Because of unforeseen circumstances, Commission Rail Crossings and Engineering (RCEB) staff is late in submitting this approval letter.

The crossing is an east-west two-lane roadway that consists of five tracks. The crossing is equipped with two curb-mounted Commission Standard 8-A (Flashing Light Signal Assembly with Additional Flashing Light Signals over the Roadway on a Cantilevered Arm) warning devices.

The CPUC's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) reviewed the request by the City. As the City and CWR 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 a striped continental crosswalk with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant pedestrian ramps and detectable warning strips on the west side of the crossing.
- Install an 8-foot-wide raised median refuge for crosswalk users on west side of crossing.
- Install a 10-foot-wide pathway south of the crossing on the east side of the tracks.
- Install a 3.5-foot-high fence between the new pathway and track in the southeast quadrant.
- Replace existing 8-inch warning device flashers with 12-inch LED flashers.
- Install a Commission Standard 8 (Flashing Light Signal Assembly) warning device in the southeast quadrant with an extra set of flashers directed toward the new pathway.
- Install California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, including W3-1 "STOP AHEAD", W10-3 advance

warning signs, R1-1 “STOP” signs, RXR markings and 12-inch-wide stop lines, at the pathway approach to the crossing.

- Construct a new 5-foot-wide sidewalk on the south side of the crossing with ADA compliant detectable warning surfaces on both approaches.
- Apply CA MUTCD compliant signage and pavement markings, including W11-2 and W16-7P crosswalk warning signs, R1-5 “YIELD HERE TO PEDS” and 24-inch-wide STOP bars as shown on plans on both roadway approaches to the crossing.

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 City 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.
- Within 30 days after the authorized scope of alterations is complete, The City 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>.
- CWR 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 David Stewart at (415) 806-0490 or David.Stewart@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Robert J. Pinoli, California Western Railroad
Louisa Morris, Great Redwood Trail Agency
Elaine Hogan, Great Redwood Trail Agency