

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



November 14, 2024

File Number: XREQ 20241100001
Pacific Coast Hwy / State Route 1
City of Ventura, Ventura CountyKenneth Wong
Senior Right of Way Agent
California Department of Transportation
100 S. Main St. MS-6
Los Angeles, CA 90012**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Pacific Coast Hwy / State Route 1 Grade-Separated Rail Crossing**

Dear Kenneth Wong:

This refers to your letter dated October 21, 2024, received by us on November 1, 2024, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Pacific Coast Hwy / State Route 1 (SR1) grade-separated rail crossing of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Santa Barbara Subdivision track, near the City of Ventura (City), County of Ventura. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing Number 001E-391.48-A and DOT Number 745646A.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) reviewed the request by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). As Caltrans and UPRR 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 existing bridge to meet current clearance requirements and widen it to accommodate a dedicated Class IV 10-foot-wide bikeway.
- Install lighting on the soffit of the new bridge and luminaires on the top of the bridge.
- Close the SR1 overhead crossing for the duration of construction.
- Construct a temporary grade-separated pedestrian and bike overhead crossing approximately 600 feet northwest of the bridge and detour existing bicycle paths to the temporary crossing.
 - The temporary overhead crossing shall be maintained for the duration of the closure of State Route 1, which is projected to be approximately 20 months.
 - The proposed temporary overhead crossing shall be identified as CPUC Crossing Number 001E-391.35-AD and DOT Number 980376X.
 - Upon completion of the project, this temporary crossing, along with the approach paths to the temporary crossing, shall be closed and removed.

The project proposes a minimum permanent vertical clearance of 24 feet 11 inches from the top of rail and a permanent horizontal clearance of 17 feet 6 inches from the centerline of the nearest track to the pier/abutment. All proposed permanent clearances comply with the minimum clearance requirements specified in Commission GO 26-D.

Caltrans is requesting a deviation from GO 26-D for a minimum temporary vertical clearance of 21 feet 0 inches above UPRR track during construction of both the overhead bridge structure as well as the temporary pedestrian and bike overhead crossing. GO 26-D, Section 2.1 requires a minimum vertical clearance of 22 feet 6 inches from the top of the rail to the bottom of the overhead structure.

Pursuant to Commission Resolution SX-76 and Section 16.2 of GO 26-D, Caltrans is granted a temporary deviation from GO 26-D, Section 2.1 for a temporary vertical clearance of not less than 21 feet 0 inches from the top of rail, during the construction period for the structure.

The following requirements shall apply to the temporary deviation to GO 26-D, Section 2.1:

1. Caltrans shall notify UPRR and the Commission's Rail Safety Division – Rail Operations Safety Branch (ROSB) and Rail Crossings Engineering Branch (RCEB) at least 15 days but not more than 30 days in advance of the date when Caltrans will create the temporary reduced vertical clearance. For the Commission, this notification may be submitted electronically to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.
2. UPRR shall issue instructions to all individuals responsible for operation of trains over the track of the temporary reduced vertical clearance of 21 feet 0 inches and shall submit the instructions in advance of the date when Caltrans will create the temporary reduced vertical clearance to ROSB and RCEB. This notification may be submitted electronically to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (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. Caltrans 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:

- Within 30 days after the authorized scope of alterations is complete, Caltrans and/or UPRR 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>.
UPRR shall electronically submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form (Form F6180.71) for both crossings to the FRA per 49 C.F.R. § 234.411(c). The FRA inventory form for the temporary pedestrian and bike crossing, shall be marked as closed upon removal of the crossing.

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If you have any questions, please contact Oliver Garcia at (213) 369-4674 or oliver.garcia@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew Bond". The signature is written in a cursive style.

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

cc: Mario Zamorano Jr., Caltrans
Kenneth Tom, UPRR