

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



December 11, 2024

File Number: XREQ 20241100009  
Alma Street/Palo Alto Avenue  
City of Palo Alto, Santa Clara County

Philip Kamhi  
Chief Transportation Official  
City of Palo Alto  
250 Hamilton Avenue  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Alma Street/Palo Alto Avenue  
Rail Crossing**

Dear Philip Kamhi:

This refers to your letter dated November 19, 2024, received by us on November 19, 2024, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Alma Street/Palo Alto 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-29.62 and DOT Number 754992N.

The crossing is an East-West, 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 and two curb-mounted Commission Standard 9 pedestrian gate warning devices.

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

- Remove the existing medians on both approaches.
- Install a new 100 foot long, 10-inch-high median west of the tracks.
- Install a new 10-inch-high median east of the tracks with a total length of approximately 95 feet. The medians include a break to allow bicycles to turn left into El Palo Alto Park.
- Apply California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD)-compliant signage and pavement markings, including W48(CA) "2 TRACKS" and W10-9P "NO TRAIN HORN" warning signs, and R4-11 "BICYCLES MAY USE FULL LANE", R3-2 "NO LEFT TURN EXCEPT BIKES", R26(CA) "NO PARKING", R8-8 "DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS", and R4-7 ("Keep Right") 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 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, City and/or Caltrain shall notify RCEB of the alterations by submitting a Form G to [rceb@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto: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 [eyitejumade.sogbesan@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:eyitejumade.sogbesan@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



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

cc: Rick Bartholomew, Caltrain