

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



June 13, 2025

File Number: XREQ 20250700007
Santa Ana (I-5) FWY OH
City of Irvine, Orange County

Arianna Perez
Senior Real Property Agent
Orange County Transportation Authority
550 South Main Street
Orange, CA 92863

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Santa Ana (I-5) FWY OH
Grade-Separated Rail Crossing**

Dear Arianna Perez:

This refers to your letter dated April 25, 2025, received by us on May 28, 2025, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Santa Ana (I-5) FWY OH grade-separated rail crossing of the Southern California Railroad Authority (SCRRA) tracks, in the City of Irvine (City), County of Orange. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing Number 101OR-183.30-A and DOT Number 026766G.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) reviewed the request by the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA). As the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), OCTA, and SCRRA 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:

- Widen the existing I-5 freeway overpass structure by 6 feet on each side for a total of 12 feet over the SCRRA right-of-way.
- Extend existing pier protection in each direction to protect the new columns.

OCTA is requesting a deviation from Commission GO 26-D for a temporary vertical clearance of 21 feet 6 inches above the SCRRA tracks during construction. Commission 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 Commission GO 26-D, OCTA is granted a temporary deviation from Commission GO 26-D, Section 2.1 for a temporary vertical clearance of not less than 21 feet 6 inches from the top of rail, during the construction period for the structure. The project proposes a minimum permanent vertical clearance of 22 feet 11 inches from the top of rail and a permanent horizontal clearance of 15 feet 0 inches from the centerline of the nearest track to the pier. All proposed permanent clearances comply with the minimum clearance requirements specified in Commission GO 26-D.

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

1. OCTA shall notify SCRRA 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 OCTA will create the temporary reduced vertical clearance. For the Commission, this notification may be submitted electronically to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.
2. SCRRA shall issue instructions to all individuals responsible for operation of trains over these tracks of the temporary reduced vertical clearance of 21 feet 6 inches. SCRRA shall submit the instructions, in advance of the date when OCTA 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 Caltrans. 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 4 years of the date of this letter. OCTA 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 statutorily exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended. [California Public Resources Code 21080.13]

The following requirements pertain to this authorization:

- Within 30 days after the authorized scope of alterations is complete, OCTA 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>.

If you have any questions, please contact Howard Huie at (415) 308-0533 or howard.huie@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Matthew Bond, PE, TE
Program and Project Supervisor
Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch
Rail Safety Division

cc: Jennifer Pham, Caltrans
James Beil, OCTA
Maria Leible, SCRRA
Jeff Chapman, AECOM
Josue Vaglienty, OCTA