REQUEST TO CPUC STAFF FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ALTER HIGHWAY-RAIL CROSSING PURSUANT TO GENERAL ORDER 88-B

1. Date Submitted:

2. Applicant Info

Organization Name:	
Contact Person:	
Title:	
Street Address:	
City:	
Zip:	
Phone:	
Email:	

3. Crossing proposed to be altered

PUC Crossing Number:	
U.S. DOT Crossing Number:	
Street Name:	
City:	
County:	
Railroad Responsible for Crossing:	
Other Railroads Operating on Tracks:	

4. Describe Proposed Alterations (including any temporary reduced clearance variance requests):

5. Describe the public benefits to be achieved by the proposed alterations:

6. Explain why a separation of grades is not practicable:

7. Describe crossing warning devices

Current:	
Proposed:	

8. Temporary Traffic Controls - Include a statement of temporary traffic controls to be provided during construction:

9. Signature

I, [Your Name] , am an employee of [Name of your Organization] and authorized to sign this GO 88-B authorization request letter on its behalf.

Typed Name and Title Signature and date

Attachments:

1. Vicinity Map - Map of Immediate Vicinity on a scale of 50 to 200 ft/inch
2. Grade Lines - Plans showing the profile of the existing and proposed grade lines of the track and roadway
3. CEQA (Applicable only to grade-separation projects). If the project involves grade-separated crossings, then either a copy of the Notice of Exemption from CEQA or other factual evidence that the project is exempt from Public Resources Code Section 21080.13 must be provided

10. Evidence of Agreement:

I, [name of representative of organization concurring to project] , am an employee of [name of organization concurring to project] and authorized to sign this letter of agreement on its behalf, hereby declare that [name of organization concurring to project] concurs with the proposed project described above.

Typed Name and Title Signature and date

Address

I, [name of representative of organization concurring to project] , am an employee of [name of organization concurring to project] and authorized to sign this letter of agreement on its behalf, hereby declare that [name of organization concurring to project] concurs with the proposed project described above.

Typed Name and Title Signature and date

Address

Note: If there are additional interested parties, make additional copies of this page.

Instructions for Completing a Request to CPUC Staff for Authorization to Alter a Highway-Rail Crossing Pursuant to General Order 88-B

I. Review the Scope of General Order (GO) 88-B projects listed below. If your project falls outside of this scope, then a formal application must be filed with the Commission's Docket Office for Commission authorization to alter a highway-rail crossing.

Scope of GO 88-B

1. Grade crossing widening within the existing street right-of-way.
2. Approach grade changes.
3. Track elevation changes.
4. Roadway realignment that is functionality related to the existing crossing and can be achieved within the existing or a contiguous right-of-way.
5. Addition of one track within the existing railroad right-of-way.
6. Change in the type or addition of an automatic signaling device, crossing gate, crossing flagman or other forms of crossing protection or reduction of hours during which any such protection is maintained, or other minor alterations.
7. Alterations or reconstruction of an existing grade-separated crossing, where exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to California Public Resources (PR) Code Section 21080.13.
8. Construction of a grade-separation that eliminates an existing at-grade highway-rail crossing, where exempt from CEQA pursuant to PR Code Section 21080.13

II. Contact Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) staff assigned to the area. RCES assignments are made by counties, except in Los Angeles and Sacramento counties where assignments are made according to rail agencies. The link below has territory assignment maps for RCES staff.

http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/transportation/crossings/contactrces.htm

The engineer will provide information on the GO 88-B process, and advise you on arranging a field diagnostic meeting to review proposed alterations to the crossing.

The diagnostic meeting should then be held with all interested parties. The diagnostic team should evaluate the proposed modifications and identify any other matters that should be addressed as part of the modifications proposed. The requesting party will be able to determine whether RCES staff is in agreement with the proposed modifications and allow the other parties to form a basis for providing the required evidence of agreement (see below).

III. After a field diagnostic meeting is held and modifications are generally agreed to, complete the GO 88-B authorization request fill-in form as follows:

1. Date. Self-explanatory.

2. Applicant Info. Self-explanatory, except that the Contact Person should be the agency representative to whom the reply will be sent.

3. Crossing proposed to be altered. RCES staff member will provide you the PUC and U.S.DOT assigned crossing numbers, and other information requested in this part.

4. Describe Proposed Alterations. This should include a description of roadway changes through the crossing, as well as changes to warning devices, signs, signals, pavement markings, railroad circuitry or other significant aspects of the crossing to be modified.
   Example:
   The proposed alteration consists of widening the existing two-lane highway to include four 12-ft lanes, a 16-foot median, and two 6-ft sidewalks. Traffic signals will be installed at the intersection 50-ft north of crossing and will be interconnected with the rail crossing warning devices, as detailed in the plans attached as Appendix _____.
   The City will install four new "DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS" (MUTCD R8-8) signs. Existing pavement markings and signage will be maintained or reinstalled as shown in the plans attached as Appendix _____.

   Discuss any Proposed Variance from Minimum Clearances.
   If the GO 88-B request is for construction of a grade separation structure replacing an at-grade crossing or is for reconstruction or alteration of an existing grade separation structure, AND a temporary reduced clearance is necessary, it should be so stated in this section. A variance must be specifically requested. GO 26-D specifies the minimum vertical clearances (22 feet 6 inches if roadway is over the railroad, and 15 feet if the railroad is over the roadway) and horizontal clearances (8.5 feet from centerline of tangent track). A variance allowing for a temporary impaired clearance may be granted through the GO 88-B approval process, but the applicant must notify the railroad and the Commission's Rail Operations Safety Branch and RCES in advance of creating the impaired clearance, and subsequently the railroad must notify its operating employees. The concurrence letter from the owning and/or maintaining railroad (as required by part 10 of the fill-in form, below) MUST acknowledge the temporary impaired clearance, and agree to it in their concurrence correspondence.

5. Describe the public benefits to be achieved by the proposed alterations.
   Example:
   The public will benefit from the proposed project through improvements to both public safety and convenience. Traffic congestion and associated vehicle queues

across the track will be reduced through the addition of one lane in each direction. The installation of medians is intended to reduce the possibility of motorists driving around the lowered Commission Standard No. 9 gate arms. The installation of roadway intersection traffic signals and preemption will allow motorists to more efficiently clear the tracks as a train approaches.

6. Explain why a separation of grades is not practicable. Please note, practicability is not solely a function of cost.
   Example:
   Due to existing buildings and other facilities located in the immediate vicinity of the crossing, it would be physically impracticable to construct a grade-separated crossing.

7. Describe the existing and proposed crossing warning devices
   Example:
   The existing railroad warning devices consist of two Commission Standard No. 8s (flashing light signals). It is proposed to replace them with two median-mounted Commission Standard No. 9s (flashing light signal with automatic gates) and two curb-mounted Commission Standard No. 9As (Standard No. 9 with additional flashing light signals on a cantilevered mast arm).

8. Temporary Traffic Controls - Include a statement of temporary traffic controls to be provided during construction in compliance with Section 8A.05 Temporary Traffic Control Zones, of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, (CA MUTCD):
   Example:
   Appendix ___ is a copy of the latest traffic control plan prepared for the project. During construction, temporary traffic control, including temporary crossing closures and detours will be provided in accordance with the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, Section 8A.05 and Figure 6H-46. [*Rail agency name*] will provide flagging services to warn roadway traffic of approaching trains at any time that the traffic control devices or traffic signals are not in service.

9. Signature - This form must be signed by a government or railroad agency official. It cannot be signed by a consultant on behalf of a government or railroad agency.

10. Evidence of Agreement - Send completed form to interested parties, and ask them to complete this section and return it to you. Evidence of concurrence must not be dated more than two years before the date of the GO 88-B request form. Evidence of concurrence must be obtained from each involved party, including each rail agencies responsible for maintaining the crossing warning devices and/or owning the rail right-of-way (see exception below) and the public agency responsible for the roadway, depending on who is submitting the request for authorization. Evidence of concurrence is not required from county transportation authorities, such as Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

(LACMTA), which own the rail right-of-way maintained by joint powers authorities, such as Southern California Regional Rail Authority. However, evidence of concurrence is required from county transportation authorities for projects involving crossings that are maintained by these agencies, such as light rail transit crossings maintained by LACMTA. Page four of the fill-in form can be replaced by an actual letter(s) containing a similar statement of concurrence, or electronic mail indicating concurrence with the project is acceptable, provided it identifies the individual providing the concurrence by name, title and organization. If agreement of the involved parties cannot be obtained, then a formal Application must be filed with the Commission's Docket Office to gain Commission approval for the proposed modifications.

IV. Mail completed form, attachments, and evidence of agreements signed by all interested parties to the following addresses:

Address the letter to:

Daren Gilbert, Supervisor
Rail Crossings Engineering Section
California Public Utilities Commission
180 Promenade Circle, Suite 115
Sacramento, CA 95834-2939

Send Copies to:

1. Engineer assigned to the territory

2. For projects in counties included in the Southern California territory map
   Rosa Muñoz, Senior Utilities Engineer
   Rail Crossings Engineering Section
   California Public Utilities Commission
   320 West 4th Street, Suite 500
   Los Angeles, CA 90013

   OR

   For projects in counties included in the Northern California territory map
   Mahendra Patel, Senior Utilities Engineer
   Rail Crossings Engineering Section
   California Public Utilities Commission
   505 Van Ness Avenue
   San Francisco, CA 94102

   RCES staff contact information and territory maps are posted at
   http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/transportation/crossings/contactrces.htm

3. Railroad or Roadway agency (depending on who is submitting the request for authorization)