

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

320 WEST 4TH STREET, SUITE 500  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90013



March 6, 2026

ENVR 20260300003

Gabriel Perez  
City of Coachella  
53990 Enterprise Way  
Coachella, CA 92236

**Re: Connect Coachella Project – Bike Trail [SCH 2024040320](#) – *Notice of Determination***

Dear Gabriel Perez:

The California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) has jurisdiction over rail crossings (crossings) in California. CPUC ensures that crossings are safely designed, constructed, and maintained. The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Branch (RCEB) is in receipt of the *Notice of Determination (NOD)* for the proposed Connect Coachella Project. City of Coachella (City) is the lead agency.

The proposed project would consist of the construction of bicycle and pedestrian improvements. The project includes a 3.8-mile-long Class I bike path along Grapefruit Boulevard, and 3.2 miles of new Class II bike lanes on both the north and south sides of Avenue 54. A 0.08-mile Class I bike path extension is proposed on the south side of Avenue 48. The pedestrian improvements are comprised of new crosswalks, Americans with Disabilities Act-curb ramps, a new roundabout, right-turn slip lanes, triangular median dividers, striping, a new at-grade railroad crossing, and signage. The project is located adjacent to the [Avenue 54 at-grade highway rail crossing](#) (CPUC No. 001B-616.72, DOT No. 912104B).

Although the description of the proposed project states “a new at-grade railroad crossing”, it appears the proposed trail will traverse the existing railroad crossing at Avenue 54. Any proposed crossing modifications will require authorization from the CPUC through a [General Order 88-B request](#) and must also conform to the goals of the CPUC's Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan. This includes improving safety and access to transportation, improving local air quality and public health, and expanding outreach and public participation opportunities in disadvantaged communities. For more information, please visit <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/esjactionplan>.

Should that not be the case and the project is contemplating a new crossing, authorization from the CPUC will be required through a [formal application](#) to the Commission.

The City should investigate the impact of the increased pedestrian and bicycle traffic through the at-grade highway-rail crossing and any necessary supplemental measures to mitigate this increase, such as but not limited to; the repaving of Avenue 54, signalization of the intersection of Avenue 54 and Grapefruit Boulevard, reprofiling the approaches to the crossing to reduce the steep grade approaches to the crossing, and installation of street lighting at the crossing, and should also bring the crossing up to current standards and in compliance with ADA requirements. The City should also evaluate the need for pedestrian facilities on the south side of Avenue 54 at the crossing, since there are proposed crosswalks and sidewalks that lead pedestrians to the crossing on the south side of Avenue 54.

RCEB is available to discuss any potential safety impacts or concerns at the crossings and address any questions from the City. We encourage the project team to reach out to RCEB staff to discuss the

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project and requirements for the crossing early in the design process to ensure that there are no delays from approvals needed for ROW certification.

If you have any questions, please contact Sergio Licon at (213) 503-4866, or [sergio.licon@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:sergio.licon@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anh Truong", with a large loop at the end.

Anh Truong  
Senior Utilities Engineer (Supervisor)  
Rail Crossings Engineering Branch  
Rail Safety Division

CC: State Clearinghouse, [state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov](mailto:state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov)  
Cherry Zamora, California Transportation Commission, [Cherry.Zamora@catc.ca.gov](mailto:Cherry.Zamora@catc.ca.gov)  
Ken Tom, UPRR, [ktom@up.com](mailto:ktom@up.com)