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

December 16, 2025 ENVR 20251200004

John King
Planning and Building Director
City of Paramount
16400 Colorado Avenue
Paramount, CA 90723

Re: Clearwater Specific Plan SCH 2025010201 – *Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)*

Dear John King,

The California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) has jurisdiction over rail crossings (crossings) in California. The CPUC ensures that crossings are safely designed, constructed, and maintained. The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Branch (RCEB) is in receipt of the *Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)* for the Clearwater Specific Plan Project. The City of Paramount (City) is the lead agency.

The project site is a 71-acre area located in the north-central portion of the City and is bound by Rosecrans Avenue on the north, Paramount Boulevard on the east, Somerset Boulevard on the south, and the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) San Pedro Subdivision rail line on the west. The Clearwater Specific Plan establishes land use, transportation, infrastructure, economic development, and urban design strategies to promote a vibrant, inclusive, and pedestrian-oriented neighborhood center. The Specific Plan includes a mixed-use district that would provide retail, entertainment, housing, and open space amenities for residents. The Specific Plan would also provide for an artisanal manufacturing and creative live/work district that includes industrial uses along with residential uses.

The UPRR San Pedro Subdivision borders the west side of the site, preventing site access. The site can be accessed from the south, off Somerset Boulevard; from the north, off Rosecrans Avenue; and from the east, off Paramount Boulevard. There are two crossings of the UPRR San Pedro Subdivision; Somerset Boulevard (DOT# 811085U, CPUC# 003A-11.80) and Rosecrans Avenue (DOT# 811086B, CPUC# 003A-11.30). The Somerset Boulevard crossing consists of a 4-lane paved asphalt roadway with automatic railroad warning devices. The Rosecrans Avenue crossing consists of a 5-lane paved asphalt roadway with automatic railroad warning devices.

There is also a crossing of the UPRR Paramount Industrial Lead at the intersection of Rosecrans Avenue at Paramount Boulevard (DOT# 747939K , CPUC# 001BBL-496.19). The Rosecrans Avenue at Paramount Boulevard crossing consists of a 4-legged intersection with Rosecrans Avenue oriented east-west consisting of four through lanes, two left turn lanes and two right turn lanes. Paramount Boulevard is oriented north-south and consists of two through lanes and two left turn lanes. The Rosecrans Avenue at Paramount Boulevard crossing is traffic signal controlled with wayside horns and passive railroad warning devices. In addition, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) is constructing the Southeast Gateway Line, a new Light Rail Transit (LRT) service line, along the UPRR Paramount Industrial Lead that includes an LRT Station off the northwest quadrant of the Rosecrans Avenue and Paramount Boulevard intersection.

The City should investigate the impact of increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic through these three crossings and any necessary supplemental measures to mitigate this increase, such as but not limited to modification and/or installation of active railroad warning devices and installation of additional street lighting at the crossings. Additionally, new signalized intersections controlling access to the site should be designed to prevent vehicle queuing at the crossings by a combination of interconnection and preemption and traffic signal coordination with existing signalized intersections. Mitigations should also be provided along the west side of the site to deter trespassing on and across the UPRR right-of-way. These mitigation measures can be accomplished through a capital project funded by the City or a condition of approval for the site development and should also bring the crossings up to current standards and in compliance with ADA requirements.

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.

RCEB staff is available to discuss any potential safety impacts or concerns at the crossings and address any questions from the City.

If you have any questions, please contact Jose Pereyra at (213) 479-0181, or jose.pereyra@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Anh Truong, PE
Senior Utilities Engineer (Supervisor)
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Rail Safety Division

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