

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



March 9, 2026

ENVR 20260300001

Russ Henry
Program Manager
LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency
600 South Main Street
Orange, CA 92863

Re: Ortega Siding SCH [2025020087](#) – Notice of Exemption (NOE)

Dear Russ Henry,

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 *Notice of Exemption (NOE)* for the Ortega Siding Project (Project). The Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency (LOSSAN) is the lead agency.

The project site is located within Milepost 374.0-375.1 of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Santa Barbara Subdivision in the County of Santa Barbara, CA. The proposed Project would install a 1.1-mile siding in Summerland, between the Cities of Santa Barbara and Carpinteria. This project will allow for service expansion and will result in reduced travel time, increased ridership, operational reliability, and greenhouse gas emissions reduction. In addition, conceptual community-friendly visual buffers, access, and safety improvements are being considered in coordination with stakeholders and residents.

The proposed Project is located east of the [Padaro Lane](#) grade-separated railroad crossing (crossing) (DOT# 745627V, CPUC# 001E-373.90-A). There is a dirt trail, "Path to Beach" that runs under Padaro Lane next to the tracks and connects to Loon Point Beach to the west and parking lot to the east.

LOSSAN should investigate the impact of additional train and/or pedestrian traffic due to the project and any necessary upgrades to mitigate this increase, such as but not limited to installation of additional right-of-way fencing.

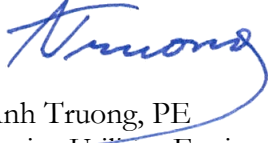
Since an alternative of this project involves trackwork under the existing Padaro Lane grade-separated crossing, any proposed crossing modifications (including addition of a new track or turnout) will require authorization from the CPUC through a [General Order 88-B](#) request and must also conform 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 LOSSAN.

Russ Henry
ENVR 20260300001
March 9, 2026

If you have any questions, please contact Oliver Garcia at (213) 369-4674, or Oliver.Garcia@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anh Truong", with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

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

cc: State Clearinghouse, state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov
Kenneth Tom, Manager Public Projects, UPRR, ktom@up.com