

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



April 21, 2026

ENVR 20260400007

Ronald Henry
Civil Engineering Assistant
City of Whittier
13230 Penn Street
Whittier, CA 90602

Re: 23-021 Painter Avenue and Vicinity Rehabilitation Project [SCH 2026031213](#) – Notice of Exemption (NOE)

Dear Ronald 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 23-021 Painter Avenue and Vicinity Rehabilitation Project. The City of Whittier (City) is the lead agency.

The City intends to conduct street rehabilitation on Greenleaf Avenue, Painter Avenue, and residential streets in the surrounding neighborhoods from Whittier Boulevard to the City's limits. Work scope includes removing and replacing existing asphalt pavement, replacing concrete access ramps, replacing curb and gutter, tree-related work, re-establishing detection loops, and restriping. Within the project bounds are the following three Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) (3) highway-rail crossings:

Street Name	CPUC Number	DOT Number
Painter Avenue	001BBJ-499.01	761427C
Greenleaf Avenue	001BBJ-498.67	903144A
Mulberry Drive	001BBJ-498.76	761425N

As part of this project, the City should upgrade the signage and pavement markings at all 3 crossings to be compliant with the standards in the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD). Currently, each crossing has the following deficiencies that should be addressed as part of rehabilitation:

CPUC Number	Recommendations
001BBJ-499.01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refresh pavement RXR markings Relocate current W10-1 for southbound traffic to be coincident with the RXR markings per CA MUTCD standards Refresh stop bar to single CA MUTCD compliant 24 inch stripe

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CPUC Number	Recommendations
001BBJ-498.67	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refresh stop bar to single CA MUTCD compliant 24 inch stripe• Relocate W10-1 for the southbound approach onto a separate pole located per CA MUTCD standards
001BBJ-498.76	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refresh stop bar to single CA MUTCD compliant 24 inch stripe• Relocate W10-1 for the southbound approach onto a separate pole located per CA MUTCD standards

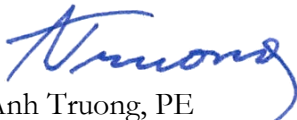
RCEB recommends the City also coordinate these improvements with the city of Santa Fe Springs so that all approaches to these three crossings have similar rehabilitation and signage and striping upgrades. RCEB also recommends removing any vegetation within 100 feet of any crossing to ensure clear sight of the railroad warning devices at each crossing as well as installing pedestrian tactile strips at each crossing for all pedestrian approaches to be compliant with ADA requirements.

The City should also investigate the current vehicular and pedestrian traffic through these crossings and determine if any further supplemental safety measures should be implemented at these locations such as raised center medians, pedestrian warning devices, signal timing changes, and other improvements to bring these crossings up to current standards and in compliance with ADA requirements.

Any proposed crossing modifications, including signal timing changes, 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 Richard Le at (213) 999-9053, or richard.le@cpuc.ca.gov.
Sincerely,



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

cc: State Clearinghouse, state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov
Kenneth Tom, Union Pacific Railroad, ktom@up.com