

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



April 29, 2026

ENVR 20260400013

Mark Mueller  
City of Santa Maria  
110 S Pine Street  
Santa Maria, CA 93458

**Re: ATP Cycle 7 - Railroad/Depot Class IV Bike Lanes [SCH 2026040496](#) – Notice of Exemption**

Dear Mark Mueller,

The California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) has regulatory 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 Exemption (NOE)* of a project described as "ATP Cycle 7 - Railroad/Depot Class IV Bike Lanes" (Project). The City of Santa Maria (City) is the lead agency.

The Project crosses the [Depot Street highway-rail at-grade crossing \(CPUC# 038B-5.60, DOT# 856635U\)](#) and is adjacent to the [Stowell Road highway-rail at-grade crossing \(CPUC# 038C-0.60, DOT# 856676Y\)](#) and the [Battles Rd highway-rail at-grade crossing \(CPUC# 038C-1.10, DOT# 856558W\)](#),

The Project proposes to convert existing Class II bicycle lanes to Class IV bicycle lanes, construct minor modifications to existing sidewalks, curb returns, curb and gutters, and install new pedestrian refuge islands along Depot St. The Project will shift the lane striping toward the roadway edges and installing flexible bollards and curb stops to create the Class IV bike lanes and will not create additional automobile lanes. Street parking along Depot St will be moved inwards to be between the vehicular lane and the Class IV bike lane.

Additionally, a new crosswalk is proposed on the west leg of intersection of Stowell Rd and Depot St and a striped crosswalk is proposed on the west leg of the intersection of Battles Rd and Depot St; both of which will have an effect on the traffic operation at the adjacent highway-rail at-grade crossings by reducing the Clear Storage Distance (CSD). It is unclear whether or not the existing traffic signals along Depot St will be modified to accommodate the Project.

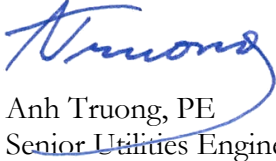
Any proposed modifications; including the reconfiguration of lanes, modification of curb returns at intersections, and modification of interconnected traffic signals; at or near grade any highway-rail at-grade crossings will require authorization from the CPUC through [General Order 88-B](#), and must 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.

Mark Mueller  
ENVR 20260400013  
April 29, 2026

If you have any questions, please contact Oliver Garcia at (213) 369-4674, or [oliver.garcia@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:oliver.garcia@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

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

Anh Truong, PE  
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)  
Greg Vine, City of Santa Maria, [gvine@cityofsantamaria.org](mailto:gvine@cityofsantamaria.org)  
Rob Himoto, Santa Maria Valley Railroad, [rhimoto@smvrr.com](mailto:rhimoto@smvrr.com)