

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



May 28, 2026

ENVR 20260500002

Nick Brobroff
Director, Community Development Department
City of Carpinteria
5775 Carpinteria Avenue
Carpinteria, CA 93013

Re: Carpinteria [Coastal Land Use Plan/General Plan Update](#) – *Notice of Preparation (NOP)*

Dear Nick Brobroff,

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 Preparation (NOP)* for the Coastal Land Use Plan/General Plan (CLUP/GP). The City of Carpinteria (City) is the lead agency.

The project site is located within the City of Carpinteria. According to the Land Use Element discussion, the City's land area is primarily occupied by low and medium-density residential uses, followed by open space/recreation, transportation corridors, research and development industrial, public facilities, general commercial, planned unit development, agricultural, and visitor-serving commercial.

The Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Santa Barbara subdivision runs across generally in the southern part of the City, forming a boundary between the seaward side of the City to the south and the landward side to the north. There are two public at-grade crossings that serve vehicle and pedestrian access between the City's seaward and landward sides of the tracks; [Linden Avenue](#) (DOT# 745632S, CPUC# 001E-377.90) and [Palm Avenue](#) (DOT# 745633Y, CPUC# 001E-378.20). The area around Linden Avenue at-grade highway-rail crossing is planned to be General-Commercial, Visitor-Serving Commercial, and Open Space/Recreation. The area around Palm Avenue at-grade highway-rail crossing is planned to be General-Commercial, and Open Space/Recreation.

As part of the CLUP/GP, the City should investigate the impact of increased vehicular and pedestrian traffic through these two at-grade highway-rail crossing and any necessary supplemental measures to mitigate this increase, such as but not limited to installation of active railroad warning devices for pedestrians, fencing and channelization, and queue mitigation. Future developments should also consider the need for any new crossings needed to deter/prevent trespassing across the railroad corridor. These measures can be accomplished through a capital project funded by the City or a condition of approval for any development near or adjacent to the crossings, and should also bring the crossings up to current standards and in compliance with ADA requirements.

This would be consistent with the CLUP/GP preliminary goal 3 and 5, which state (emphasis added);

3. Maintain and enhance a multimodal transportation system that improves community wide mobility, supports walking, bicycling, and transit use, **promotes safety and accessibility**,

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reduces vehicle miles traveled and reliance on single-occupant vehicles, and improves circulation and traffic flow.

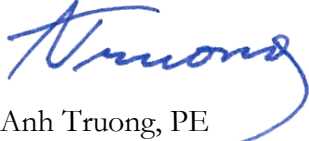
5. **Minimize risks to public safety and reduce the loss of life**, property, and economic and social disruption resulting from natural and **human-induced hazards**.

Any proposed modifications of the existing crossings will require authorization from the CPUC through a [General Order 88-B request](#) and any new crossings will require authorization from the CPUC through a [formal application](#). Any modification of an existing crossing or new crossing 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 Oliver Garcia at (213) 369-4674, or Oliver.Garcia@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Kenneth Tom, UPRR
Richard Koerner, UPRR Representative, Olsson