PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
300 CAPITOL MALL, SUITE 400
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

(Electronically Transmitted – No hard copy will follow)

February 4, 2026

Mr. Anthony Adams
Director of Planning
Sacramento Regional Transit District (SRTD)
1102 Q Street, Suite 4100
Sacramento, CA 95811

SUBJECT: SCH# 2015052050; SRTD, Downtown Riverfront Streetcar Project Subsequent Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration

Dear Mr. Adams,

The California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) has jurisdiction over the safety of highway-rail crossings (crossings) and rail transit projects in California. All rail fixed guideway systems are subject to the Commission's Safety Oversight Program requirements. Safety Certification Plan (SCP) approval and Safety Certification Verification Report (SCVR) approval from the Commission are required for rail transit projects to be placed in revenue service. In addition, the California Public Utilities Code requires Commission approval for construction or alteration of crossings and grants the Commission exclusive power on design, alteration, and/or closure of crossings in California. The Commission's Rail Transit Safety Branch (RTSB) will review rail transit project matters, and the Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) will review crossing matters. The Commission has reviewed a copy of the Subsequent Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration from Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT), who is the lead agency for the proposed Downtown Riverfront Streetcar Project.

According to the Subsequent Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration, the Sacramento Downtown Riverfront Streetcar Project ('DRSP' or the 'Project') will be a 1.8-mile service between West Sacramento and downtown Sacramento. The Project route would travel within public roadways from its western terminus at Sutter Health Park, cross the Tower Bridge that spans the Sacramento River, turn south at 3rd Street and Capitol Mall to N Street, where the alignment would turn east to 7th and 8th Streets and connect to SacRT's existing light rail tracks on these streets. The Streetcar would use the light rail tracks on 7th Street to travel south from the eastern terminus, (across the street from the historical Southern Pacific Railroad Depot) to head toward Sutter Health Park; the streetcars would use the light rail tracks on 8th Street to travel north from Sutter Health Park toward the eastern terminus. At 7th and 8th Streets, the Project would continue along SacRT's existing light rail tracks on H Street to the route's eastern terminus near the historical Southern Pacific Railroad Depot where passengers could connect to Amtrak passenger trains and short- and long-haul bus routes. Three new stations would be constructed: West Sacramento/Bridge District Station at Sutter Health Park; 2nd & Capitol Station serving Old Sacramento; and N Street, serving high-intensity office and residential uses in Downtown Sacramento.

The Streetcar Project will be subject to several rules and regulations involving the Commission. These may include, but are not limited to:

- California Public Utilities Code, Sections 1201 et al, which requires Commission authority to construct rail crossings,
- California Public Utilities Code, Sections 2111, 2112, 99152; rail transit safety, and
- Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, which details the Formal Application process for construction or modification of public crossings.

The design criteria of the proposed project must comply with Commission General Orders (GOs), such as:

- GO 26 series, Clearances on railroads and street railroads as to side and overhead structures, parallel tracks and crossings,
- GO 72 series, Construction and maintenance of crossings – standard types of pavement construction at railroad grade crossings (if applicable),
- GO 75 series, Warning devices for at-grade railroad crossings (if applicable),
- GO 95 series, Overhead electric line construction (if applicable),
- GO 128 series, Construction of Underground Electric Supply and Communication Systems,
- GO 143 series, Design, Construction and Operation Safety Rules and Regulations Governing Light-Rail Transit, and
- GO 164 series, Rules and Regulations Governing State Safety Oversight of Rail and Other Fixed Guideway Systems

The project must ensure compliance with federal regulations including:

- 49 CFR Part 674, Rail Fixed Guideway Systems: State Safety Oversight

The following link provides resources on the Commission's rules and regulations regarding rail safety:

http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/safety/Rail/

The proposed project options may disrupt the heavily used roadway network in the surrounding communities. The potential impacts should be identified, discussed, and evaluated for necessary safety improvements and mitigations at each proposed construction stage. This includes considering traffic circulation and queuing, level of service, emergency service response, and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Additionally, careful consideration should be given to station configurations, including pedestrian paths of travel through the stations as patrons move between SacRT trains and the other modes of transportation at the station locations. Pedestrian paths of travel should avoid crossing the tracks at grade to access or depart from the station platforms, where feasible.

The proposed project 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.

The Commission appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the project described in the Subsequent Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration. Please feel free to contact me at (916) 803-0736 or daren.gilbert@cpuc.ca.gov or contact our lead staff on this project: Clint Olazava-Broadbent at (916) 579-0305 or clint.olazava-broadbent@cpuc.ca.gov for transit safety matters and Daniellia Fristoe at (916) 217-6829 or daniellia.fristoe@cpuc.ca.gov for crossing matters.

Sincerely,



Daren Gilbert, Manager
Rail Transit Safety Branch
Rail Safety Division

cc: (all via e-mail)

State Clearinghouse
Anton Garabetian, Manager, Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch
Matthew Bond, Program and Project Supervisor, Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch
Daniellia Fristoe, Utilities Engineer, Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch
Ainsley Kung, Program and Project Supervisor, Rail Transit Safety Branch
Steven Espinal, Senior Utilities Engineer - Supervisor, Rail Transit Safety Branch
Clint Olazava-Broadbent, Utilities Engineer, Rail Transit Safety Branch