



## California Public Utilities Commission 505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

Docket #: Res ROSB-002

### **CPUC CREATES CITATION PROGRAM TO ASSIST IN SAFETY EFFORTS REGARDING RAILROAD COMPANIES**

SAN FRANCISCO, November 6, 2008 - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) today created a citation program to enforce compliance with certain rules and requirements for railroad companies operating in California.

Today's action allows staff of the CPUC's Consumer Protection and Safety Division (CPSD) to draft and issue citations for specific violations and levy penalties in specified amounts. The citation program will enforce compliance with the requirements for walkways, clearances, and the provisions of Public Utilities Code section 7662 relative to signage, flags and notification of new uses of remote locomotive control systems.

"We are committed to protecting railroad employees, the public, and the environment," said Richard Clark, the Director of CPSD. "This citation program is consistent with other citation programs previously approved by the CPUC and will expedite railroad compliance with our rules."

The regulations that will be enforced through the citation program include General Order 26-D, which establishes minimum clearances between railroad tracks, parallel tracks, side clearances on railroad tracks, overhead clearances on railroad tracks, freight car clearances, and clearances for obstructions, motor vehicles, and warning devices next to railroad tracks at highway-rail crossings. Also included is General Order 118, which provides standards for the construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of walkways adjacent to railroad tracks to provide a safe area for train crews to work and requires



those walkways to be kept reasonably free of vegetation. The applicable elements of Public Utilities Code section 7662 are:

- Signs for trains approaching grade crossings;
- Yellow flags warning of a restriction to train movement;
- Yellow-red flags warning of a location where a train may be required to stop because of men or equipment working;
- Readily visible milepost markers posted at 1-mile intervals;
- Signs in advance of permanent speed reductions;
- Notification to an affected employees' collective bargaining unit of new Remote Control Locomotive usages.

The proposal voted on today is available at

[http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/Published/Comment\\_resolution/80450.htm](http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/Published/Comment_resolution/80450.htm).

For more information on the CPUC, please visit [www.cpuc.ca.gov](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov).

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