



ALJ/LGG/vj4 01/26/2026

FILED

01/26/26

04:59 PM

A2405012

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the City of Palmdale to construct at-grade crossing modifications at State Route 138 (DOT # 750603S and CPUC #101VY-68.40) for the Southern California Regional Rail Authority and 001B-413.70 for the Union Pacific Railroad within the County of Los Angeles

Application 24-05-012

**EMAIL RULING REGARDING APPLICATION OF THE CITY OF PALMDALE
FOR A RAILROAD CROSSING MODIFICATION**

Dated January 26, 2026, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ LEAH S. GOLDBERG

Leah S. Goldberg
Administrative Law Judge

From: Goldberg, Leah <Leah.Goldberg@cpuc.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2026 3:47 PM
To: Mark.Berkebile@dot.ca.gov; LeibleM@scrra.net; CHicks@CityOfPalmdale.org; Hill, Roderick <Roderick.Hill@cpuc.ca.gov>; MeierJ@GTlaw.com; althorpa@scrra.net; jessica.perez@dot.ca.gov; mccunek@scrra.net; younanm@scrra.net; BarreraR@scrra.net; CastanedaS@scrra.net; JJordan1@up.com; SDLanka@up.com; Truong, Anh <Anh.Truong@cpuc.ca.gov>; Garabetian, Antranig G. <antranig.garabetian@cpuc.ca.gov>; To, Chi Cheung <ChiCheung.To@cpuc.ca.gov>; Schumacher, Kevin <kevin.schumacher@cpuc.ca.gov>; Bond, Matthew <Matthew.Bond@cpuc.ca.gov>; rnc@cpuc.ca.gov; Daniel.Kachi@parsons.com; KTom@up.com; ssarnall@harperburns.com; Gallardo, Enrique <Enrique.Gallardo@cpuc.ca.gov>; Ko, Felix <felix.ko@cpuc.ca.gov>; Hagler, Justin <Justin.Hagler@cpuc.ca.gov>; Goldberg, Leah <Leah.Goldberg@cpuc.ca.gov>; Donnelly, Patrick <Patrick.Donnelly@cpuc.ca.gov>; OrlandoM@GTlaw.com; Gutierrez, Thomas <Thomas.Gutierrez@cpuc.ca.gov>; Gilbert, Daren S. <daren.gilbert@cpuc.ca.gov>
Cc: Colbert, W. Anthony <W.Anthony.Colbert@cpuc.ca.gov>; Hagler, Justin <Justin.Hagler@cpuc.ca.gov>; ALJ Hearing Requests <ALJ_HearingRequests@cpuc.ca.gov>; ALJ Process <alj_process@cpuc.ca.gov>; ALJ Docket Office <ALJ_Docket_Office@cpuc.ca.gov>; ALJ Support ID <alj_supportid@cpuc.ca.gov>; ALJ Proceedings Event Support Request <ALJProceedingsEventSupportRequest@cpuc.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: A.24-05-012 Application of the City of Palmdale for a Railroad Crossing Modification Email Ruling

To the parties in A.24-05-012,

In response to a request from the Rail Safety Division, this email ruling reschedules the virtual status conference in the Application of the City of Palmdale (A.24-05-012) from February 3, 2026, at 2:00 pm to February 4, 2026, at 11:00 am. As noted in my ruling filed January 26, 2026, at the status conference, we will discuss a timeline for the parties' efforts to complete the design plan and to file an amended motion to approve the settlement agreement, or other options for resolving this Proceeding.

To participate in the virtual status conference on February 4, 2026, at 11:00 am, use the log in below:

When it's time, join your Webex meeting here.

[Join meeting](#)

More ways to join:

Join from the meeting link

<https://cpuc.webex.com/cpuc/j.php?MTID=m6e5f4345acab54c9f26d9533190b4f13>

Join by meeting number

Meeting number (access code): 2495 503 3922

Meeting password: uPnFAQhT232

Tap to join from a mobile device (attendees only)

[1-855-282-6330,,24955033922##](tel:1-855-282-6330,,24955033922##) United States Toll Free

[+1-415-655-0002,,24955033922##](tel:+1-415-655-0002,,24955033922##) United States Toll

Join by phone

1-855-282-6330 United States Toll Free

+1-415-655-0002 United States Toll

[Global call-in numbers](#) | [Toll-free calling restrictions](#)

Join from a video system or application

Dial [24955033922@cpuc.webex.com](tel:24955033922@cpuc.webex.com)

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.

IT IS SO ORDERED, THE DOCKET OFFICE SHALL FORMALLY FILE THIS RULING.

Leah S. Goldberg
Administrative Law Judge
California Public Utilities Commission
leah.goldberg@cpuc.ca.gov

Notice: This communication may contain confidential and/or legally privileged information for the use of the intended recipient(s). Unauthorized use or disclosure is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and destroy all copies of the communication.

From: Hill, Roderick <Roderick.Hill@cpuc.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2026 11:25 AM
To: Goldberg, Leah <Leah.Goldberg@cpuc.ca.gov>
Cc: Colbert, W. Anthony <W.Anthony.Colbert@cpuc.ca.gov>; Hagler, Justin <Justin.Hagler@cpuc.ca.gov>; ALJ Hearing Requests <ALJ_HearingRequests@cpuc.ca.gov>; ALJ Process <alj_process@cpuc.ca.gov>; ALJ Support ID <alj_supportid@cpuc.ca.gov>; ALJ Docket Office <ALJ_Docket_Office@cpuc.ca.gov>; ALJ Proceedings Event Support Request <ALJProceedingsEventSupportRequest@cpuc.ca.gov>; Mark.Berkebile@dot.ca.gov; LeibleM@scrra.net; CHicks@CityOfPalmdale.org; MeierJ@GTlaw.com; althorpa@scrra.net; jessica.perez@dot.ca.gov; mccunek@scrra.net; younanm@scrra.net; BarreraR@scrra.net; CastanedaS@scrra.net; JJordan1@up.com; SDLanka@up.com; Truong, Anh <Anh.Truong@cpuc.ca.gov>; Garabetian, Antranig G. <antranig.garabetian@cpuc.ca.gov>; To, Chi Cheung <ChiCheung.To@cpuc.ca.gov>; Schumacher, Kevin <kevin.schumacher@cpuc.ca.gov>; Bond, Matthew <Matthew.Bond@cpuc.ca.gov>; rnc@cpuc.ca.gov; Daniel.Kachi@parsons.com; KTom@up.com; ssarnall@harperburns.com; Gallardo, Enrique <Enrique.Gallardo@cpuc.ca.gov>; Ko, Felix <felix.ko@cpuc.ca.gov>; Hagler, Justin <Justin.Hagler@cpuc.ca.gov>; Donnelly, Patrick <Patrick.Donnelly@cpuc.ca.gov>; OrlandoM@GTlaw.com; Gutierrez, Thomas <Thomas.Gutierrez@cpuc.ca.gov>; Gilbert, Daren S. <daren.gilbert@cpuc.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: A.24-05-012 Application of the City of Palmdale for a Railroad Crossing Modification Email Ruling

Dear Judge Goldberg, Would it be possible to reschedule the Status Conference in this matter.

I have a CPUC/Communication Division appeal hearing scheduled for February 3, 2026 at 2:00 pm in K.25-12-013.

Please advise at your earliest.

Very Truly Yours,

Roderick D. Hill | Staff Counsel | California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue, SF, CA 94102 | W: 415.703.4478

From: Goldberg, Leah <Leah.Goldberg@cpuc.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 23, 2026 3:48 PM
To: Mark.Berkebile@dot.ca.gov; LeibleM@scrra.net; CHicks@CityOfPalmdale.org; Hill, Roderick <Roderick.Hill@cpuc.ca.gov>; MeierJ@GTlaw.com; althorpa@scrra.net; jessica.perez@dot.ca.gov; mccunek@scrra.net; younanm@scrra.net; BarreraR@scrra.net; CastanedaS@scrra.net; JJordan1@up.com; SDLanka@up.com; Truong, Anh <Anh.Truong@cpuc.ca.gov>; Garabetian, Antranig G. <antranig.garabetian@cpuc.ca.gov>; To, Chi Cheung <ChiCheung.To@cpuc.ca.gov>; Schumacher, Kevin <kevin.schumacher@cpuc.ca.gov>; Bond, Matthew <Matthew.Bond@cpuc.ca.gov>; rnc@cpuc.ca.gov; Daniel.Kachi@parsons.com; KTom@up.com; ssarnall@harperburns.com; Gallardo, Enrique <Enrique.Gallardo@cpuc.ca.gov>; Ko, Felix <felix.ko@cpuc.ca.gov>; Hagler, Justin <Justin.Hagler@cpuc.ca.gov>; Goldberg, Leah <Leah.Goldberg@cpuc.ca.gov>; Donnelly, Patrick <Patrick.Donnelly@cpuc.ca.gov>; OrlandoM@GTlaw.com; Gutierrez, Thomas <Thomas.Gutierrez@cpuc.ca.gov>; Gilbert, Daren S. <daren.gilbert@cpuc.ca.gov>
Cc: Colbert, W. Anthony <W.Anthony.Colbert@cpuc.ca.gov>; Hagler, Justin <Justin.Hagler@cpuc.ca.gov>; ALJ Hearing Requests <ALJ_HearingRequests@cpuc.ca.gov>; ALJ Process <alj_process@cpuc.ca.gov>; ALJ Support ID <alj_supportid@cpuc.ca.gov>; ALJ Docket Office <ALJ_Docket_Office@cpuc.ca.gov>; ALJ Proceedings Event Support Request <ALJProceedingsEventSupportRequest@cpuc.ca.gov>

Subject: A.24-05-012 Application of the City of Palmdale for a Railroad Crossing Modification Email Ruling

To the parties in A.24-05-012,

This email ruling sets a virtual status conference in proceeding A.24-06-012 for February 3, 2026, at 2:00 pm to discuss the status of the parties' efforts to complete the design plan and file an amended motion to approve the settlement agreement and to set a deadline for doing so.

Procedural and Factual Background

On May 9, 2024, The City of Palmdale (City or Applicant) filed an application to construct at-grade crossing modifications at State Route 138 (DOT #750603S and CPUC # 101VY-68.40 for the Southern California Regional Rail Authority, and 001B-413.70 for the Union Pacific Railroad) within the County of Los Angeles (Application).

On June 14, 2024, the Commission's Railroad Safety Division (RSD) filed a response and Union Pacific Railroad Company (Union Pacific) filed a protest to the Application.

On June 25, 2024, in compliance with the assigned Administrative Law Judge's (ALJ) Ruling, the parties filed a Joint Prehearing Conference Statement. And on July 29, 2024, Applicant served a copy of the California Environmental Quality Act Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment with a Finding of No Significant Impact.

On August 27, 2024, the Parties accompanied the assigned ALJ and the assigned Assistant Chief ALJ (ACALJ) on a site visit to the existing railroad crossing for the purpose of understanding the proposed modifications detailed in the Application.

The assigned ALJ and ACALJ conducted a Prehearing Conference on August 27, 2024, in person at the Palmdale City Hall to address the issues of law and fact, determine the need for hearing, set the schedule for resolving the matter, and address other matters as necessary. At the Prehearing Conference, the assigned ALJ approved motions for party status made by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), which will assume ownership of the improvements

after construction, and Metrolink, which owns a set of railroad tracks that transverse the subject rail crossing.

Commissioner Matthew Baker issued a Scoping Ruling on September 18, 2024, that contained the proceeding schedule.

On November 19, 2024, the City and Union Pacific filed a joint motion to extend the time to file testimony, briefings and reschedule evidentiary hearings. The City and Union Pacific conferred with RSD, Metrolink and Caltrans and reported that these parties did not object to the Motion. The assigned ALJ granted the Motion on November 25, 2024.

On January 9, 2025, the parties filed a Joint Case Management Statement again requesting to extend the proceeding schedule by 90 days to allow time for additional settlement discussions.

On January 14, 2025, the assigned ALJ issued a Ruling Amending the Proceeding Schedule and Directing the Parties to File a Joint Status Report. The parties filed a Joint Status Report on April 9, 2025, requesting an additional 60-day extension to the proceeding schedule to allow the parties additional time to discuss settlement of one of the scoped issues.

On April 30, 2025, the assigned ALJ held a status conference to discuss the parties' request to extend the proceeding schedule.

On May 14, 2025, the assigned ALJ issued a ruling amending the proceeding schedule to allow the parties additional time to conduct settlement discussions.

On June 9, 2025, the parties filed a Joint Status Report stating that they had reached a settlement in principle. On June 27, 2025, the parties requested an extension to the proceeding schedule to allow time to draft the settlement agreement and to prepare a motion to approve the settlement agreement.

On July 1, 2025, the assigned ALJ held a status conference to discuss the extension request.

On July 10, 2025, the assigned ALJ issued a Ruling Amending the Proceeding Schedule and Directing the Parties to File a Joint Status Report.

The parties filed a joint status report on July 28, 2025, explaining that they had reached a settlement on all issues, were memorializing the settlement, and would file a motion to approve the settlement by August 28, 2025.

On August 28, 2025, all parties joined in filing a Joint Motion to Approve the Settlement Agreement.

On September 11, 2025, the City of Palmdale sent a procedural email to the assigned ALJ notifying the Commission that the City would be amending its application and would supply necessary attachments to the Settlement Agreement in its amended application. On September 29, 2025, the assigned ALJ held a status conference to discuss the need for an amended application. At the status conference, the parties agreed that it would make more sense include the amended design plan in the settlement agreement and to amend the motion to approve the settlement agreement rather than amend the application which could have other procedural impacts.

On October 30, 2025, the Commission voted to extend the statutory deadline for this proceeding to May 31, 2026.

Applicant served the service list with a status update on October 31, 2025, explaining that the parties were actively working to finalize the amended settlement agreement and anticipated filing an amended motion during the first week in November. On December 4, 2025, Applicant served a status update explaining that the parties were working diligently on the revised design plans and would serve the documents before the holiday season. On December 31, 2025, Applicant again provided an email update simply saying that the parties are still working on the design plan.

1. Discussion

This case was filed 19 months ago. The statutory deadline for a ratesetting proceeding is 18 months. The Commission extended the statutory deadline for another six months until May 31, 2026. In order to meet the statutory deadline, it is essential that the Commission rule on the pending motion or that the motion to approve the settlement agreement is amended in short order. Therefore, the purpose of the status conference is to discuss the parties' intentions with respect to amending the settlement agreement and the timing for motion for approval thereof, or whether the parties no longer wish to settle this matter.

The virtual status conference will be held on February 3, 2026, at 2:00 pm. The status conference will be recorded by a court reporter and thus will be on the record.

To participate in the virtual status conference, use the log in below:

When it's time, join your Webex meeting here.

[Join meeting](#)

More ways to join:

Join from the meeting link

<https://cpuc.webex.com/cpuc/j.php?MTID=m6e5f4345acab54c9f26d9533190b4f13>

Join by meeting number

Meeting number (access code): 2495 503 3922

Meeting password: uPnFAQhT232

Tap to join from a mobile device (attendees only)

[1-855-282-6330,,24955033922##](tel:1-855-282-6330,,24955033922##) United States Toll Free

[+1-415-655-0002,,24955033922##](tel:+1-415-655-0002,,24955033922##) United States Toll

Join by phone

1-855-282-6330 United States Toll Free

+1-415-655-0002 United States Toll

[Global call-in numbers](#) | [Toll-free calling restrictions](#)

Join from a video system or application

Dial [24955033922@cpuc.webex.com](tel:24955033922@cpuc.webex.com)

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.

IT IS SO ORDERED, THE DOCKET OFFICE SHALL FORMALLY FILE THIS RULING.

Leah S. Goldberg
Administrative Law Judge
California Public Utilities Commission
leah.goldberg@cpuc.ca.gov

Notice: This communication may contain confidential and/or legally privileged information for the use of the intended recipient(s). Unauthorized use or disclosure is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and destroy all copies of the communication.