

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**FILED**

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**A2606007**

Application of the County of Santa Barbara for an order authorizing construction of a public multi-use trail grade-separated crossing (Proposed DOT No. 972559V and CPUC No. 001E-325.84-AD) over UPRR Santa Barbara Subdivision at MP 352.84 in the County of Santa Barbara, California.

Application No.: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICATION**

The County of Santa Barbara (Applicant) hereby respectfully requests authority from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC or Commission) to construct a new public multi-use trail grade separation over the existing track of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR), Santa Barbara Subdivision line, in the County of Santa Barbara. The grade-separated rail crossing would accommodate multi-use: pedestrians, bicyclists and equestrians and is part of the Paradiso California Coastal Trail project.

In support of this application, the Applicant asserts that:

1. The Applicant's exact legal name is the County of Santa Barbara.
2. The Applicant's principal place of business is located at 123 East Anapamu Street Santa Barbara, California, 93101. The main telephone number is (805) 568-2460.
3. All correspondence, communication, notices, orders, and other papers relative to this application should be addressed to:

County of Santa Barbara County Community Services Department  
123 East Anapamu Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
Attention: Jill Van Wie  
or via e-mail to: [jvanwie@countyofsb.org](mailto:jvanwie@countyofsb.org)

4. The proposed overhead grade separation, the Paradiso del Mare Multi-use Trail Overhead, would provide access to a 1.1-mile segment of the California Coastal Trail (CCT) along the east-west length of the Paradiso property and link to future reaches of the CCT along the Gaviota Coast. The proposed overhead bridge will be a prefabricated steel bridge, about 120 feet long and 10 feet wide, using a single span. The new structure will provide a minimum of 24.11 feet of clearance from the top of the rail to the bottom of the proposed bridge. In addition, a minimum horizontal clearance of 51.8 feet will be provided from the existing track centerline to the nearest foundation. The bridge abutments will be within 50 feet of the centerline of future track. Therefore, the MSE walls will be protected by a 2.5 feet thick concrete masonry unit facing extending up to 12 feet above the top of rail of future track to support the bridge. The 8 feet tall fencing will be provided for a distance of 500 feet on both sides of the bridge, on the inland side and the coastal side in accordance with UPRR requirements to ensure security, enhance public safety, and prevent trespassing. During construction, a new temporary access road and at grade crossing will be provided to facilitate construction activities on the ocean side of the project. Temporary gates will be installed at the railroad crossing on both sides of the UPRR right-of-way to prevent unauthorized use. Following construction, native landscaping will be implemented to restore disturbed areas and provide visual screening of graded slopes. There is an existing private overpass crossing the UPRR less than 0.1 mile east of the proposed crossing at the rail milepost (MP) 352.93 (CPUC No. 001E-352.96-AX, and DOT No. 745577U). The existing wooden overpass is privately owned by and under control of the Paradiso del Mare property owner, and it is weathered, structurally unsound, and not available for public use. The property owner is working with UPRR to remove the existing wooden overpass prior to construction of the proposed overhead grade separation. The proposed overhead crossing would address ongoing safety hazards created by

unauthorized individuals crossing the tracks at grade to access a nearby surf spot. The proposed multi-use trail grade separation would provide for the safe movement of pedestrians, bicyclists and equestrians between the proposed parking lot north of the railroad and the CCT.

5. This application, and the relief sought herein, is filed pursuant to Sections 1201 through 1205, inclusive, of the Public Utilities Code and in accordance with Rule 3.7 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

6. Santa Barbara County proposes to construct an access to the CCT crossing the UPRR. This segment will provide the trail connection from the proposed parking lot north of the railroad to the main trail that follows the coastline by building the multi-use trail overhead grade separation. The deck of the bridge will be an equestrian friendly surface such as wood planks. The pedestrian bridge is rated for use by a small, emergency-only vehicle. Bollards will be provided at the entrance of the bridge on both sides to prevent vehicle use. The proposed DOT crossing number and CPUC crossing number for the Paradiso del Mare Multi-use trail overpass are 972559V and 001E-352.84-AD, respectively.

7. The rail milepost of the proposed grade separation is at MP 352.84 on the UPRR Santa Barbara Subdivision line. The location of the grade separation having accuracy comparable to a legal description using a coordinate system, in lieu of a legal description, per CPUC Rules of Practice and Procedure 3.7(a), is at:

Latitude 34.436972° N

Longitude 119.934083° W

This location is identified at the approximate location where the centerline of the pathway crosses the center of the existing railroad track at the crossing as provided in Exhibit A, attached hereto and made a part hereof.

8. The crossing identification numbers of the nearest existing public crossings on each side if the proposed crossing (Rule 3.7(b)) are as follows: the nearest existing public crossing to the west is the UPRR mainline crossing at El Capitan State Beach Road (CPUC No. 001E-347.45-B and DOT No. 745570W). This crossing is grade-separated (roadway under mainline track) and located in the County of Santa Barbara. The nearest existing public crossing to the east is the UPRR mainline crossing at Cathedral Oaks Road (CPUC No. 001E-354.60-A and DOT No. 440135U). This crossing is also grade-separated (roadway over mainline track) and located in the City of Goleta.

9. Drawings of the proposed grade separation, which include plan and profile drawings of the multi-use trail and railroad, typical sections, and vicinity and location maps (Rule 3.7(d), 3.7(e) and 3.7(f)), are provided in Exhibits B1 through B4, attached hereto and made a part hereof. The bridge will be a prefabricated steel structure supported by concrete abutments located outside the railroad right-of-way. For construction, construction staging plans and temporary at-grade crossing design plans are provided in Exhibit B5.

10. In support of the proposed overhead grade separation crossing over the UPRR track, letters of concurrence from a California Assembly member, State Senator, Santa Barbara County Supervisor, and a Democratic U.S. Representative for California's 24<sup>th</sup> Congressional District are provided in Exhibits C, attached hereto and made a part hereof.

11. County of Santa Barbara, as the lead agency under the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), prepared the Final EIR for Paradiso del Mare Ocean and Inland Estates, which was certified by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors (copy of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors Final Action Letter that includes certification of the EIR attached as Exhibit D). The Final EIR is available at the following URL:

<https://cosantabarbara.app.box.com/s/zo3nxfc4e2d27mfhygveni1yf1ckegdm/folder/103412715476>

11. Attached here as Exhibit E is the Environmental and Social Justice Statement for this application.

12. Attached hereto as Exhibit F is the Scoping Memo for this application.

13. Attached hereto as Exhibit G is the Verification for this application.

WHEREFORE, the Applicant respectfully requests:

1. That the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California issue an Order authorizing construction of the multi-use trail overpass grade separation of the UPRR Santa Barbara Subdivision at MP 352.84 pursuant to the provisions of Sections 1201-1205, inclusive, of California Public Utilities Code.

2. That the Order provides forty-eight (48) months from the date of such an Order within which to complete the work requested. The extended period of time is requested due to the unique nature of the project, required coordination with the railroad and regulatory agencies, permitting requirements, construction activities, and the need to secure funding.

Signed Jill Van Wie

Jill Van Wie, Capital Program Manager

Community Service Department

County of Santa Barbara

123 East Anapamu Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

E-mail to: [jvanwie@countyofsb.org](mailto:jvanwie@countyofsb.org)

Telephone at: (805) 568-2470

# List of Exhibits

- Exhibit A Location Description of the Proposed Crossing
- Exhibit B Project Drawings
  - B1 Vicinity Map
  - B2 Site Map
  - B3 Plan & Profile
  - B4 UPRR Crossing Bridge
  - B5 Construction Staging and Temporary Grade Crossing
- Exhibit C Letters of Concurrence
- Exhibit D Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors Final Action Letter that includes Certification of the EIR
- Exhibit E Environmental and Social Justice Statement
- Exhibit F Scoping Memo
- Exhibit G Verification