

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA



FILED

07/17/26

04:59 PM

A2606007

Application of the County of Santa Barbara for an order authorizing construction of a public multi-use trail grade-separated crossing(Proposed DOTNo.972559VandCPUCNo. 001E-325.84-AD)over UPRR Santa Barbara Subdivision at MP 352.84 in the County of Santa Barbara, California.)

Application 26-06-007

**RESPONSE OF THE RAIL SAFETY DIVISION TO THE
APPLICATION OF COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA TO CONSTRUCT
A NEW GRADE-SEPARATED MULTI-USE PEDESTRIAN PATH-RAIL
CROSSING**

I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Rule 2.6(a) of the California Public Utilities Commission's ("Commission's") Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules"), the Commission's Rail Safety Division ("RSD") files its response to Application ("A.") 26-06-007. In A.26-06-007, the County of Santa Barbara ("County") requests the Commission's authorization to construct a new grade-separated multipurpose rail crossing ("crossing") over the Union Pacific Railroad track within the County of Santa Barbara.

In response to the County's request for authority to construct the crossing, RSD wishes to apprise the Commission of relevant information on this project, including information on RSD's past site visit and the type and location of the crossing. RSD's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch evaluates the safety of all requested rail crossings, including the crossing at issue here. The "checklist," included here as Attachment A, documents RSD's safety review of the proposed crossing and is important information to include on the record to ensure that a thorough review of the County's requested crossing occurs.

II. RSD'S SAFETY REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED CROSSING

The County proposes to construct the Paradiso Del Mare multi-use pedestrian path that 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 crossing would provide safe movement for pedestrians, bicyclists and equestrians between the proposed parking lot north of the crossing and the CCT.

RSD conducted its diagnostic review and site visit of the crossing location on December 16, 2024. RSD has found no safety or other issues with the crossing. A grade-separated crossing is inherently safer than an at-grade crossing, as the movements of trains and pedestrians will be separated.

RSD has completed the review of A.26-06-007 and concluded that it complies with all of the requirements of the Commission's Rules as well as all applicable requirements of the Commission's General Orders. RSD has no objections to A.26-06-007.

III. PROPOSED COMMISSION AUTHORIZATION TIME PERIOD

Applicant requests a period of forty-eight (48) months to complete the construction of the crossing. RSD has no objection to this authorization period.

IV. PROPOSED SCOPE OF PROCEEDING

RSD proposes the following list of issues as constituting the scope of the proceeding:

1. Whether the Application meets all of the Commission's requirements – including Rule 3.7 – such that the Commission should grant the County of Santa Barbara's Application to construct a grade-separated crossing for the Paradiso Del Mare multi-use pedestrian path.
2. Whether the Applicant has complied with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA").
3. Whether the Commission should grant the Applicant a period of forty-eight (48) months from the Application approval date to complete construction of the crossing.

V. PROPOSED ORDERING PARAGRAPHS

Additionally, RSD recommends that – should the Commission adopt a decision approving the crossing – the Commission include the following language in the decision's Ordering Paragraphs:

1. The County of Santa Barbara is authorized to construct one new grade-separated multi-use pedestrian path-rail crossing in the County of Santa Barbara.
2. The grade-separated multi-use pedestrian path-rail crossing shall be identified as California Public Utilities Commission Crossing Number 001E-352.84-AD and United States Department of Transportation Crossing Number 972559V.

3. The grade-separated multi-use pedestrian path-rail crossing shall have the configuration specified in the application and its attachments.
4. The County of Santa Barbara is authorized to provide a temporary access road and at-grade crossing at Mile Post 352.90 to facilitate construction activities on the ocean side of the project. Following construction, the at-grade crossing at Mile Post 352.90 shall be permanently closed and its roadway approaches shall be restored to native landscaping.
5. The existing private overpass rail crossing identified as CPUC No. 001E-352.96-AX and DOT No. 745577U shall be permanently closed and its wooden structure shall be removed.
6. The County of Santa Barbara shall comply with all applicable rules, including California Public Utilities Commission General Orders, the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.
7. The County of Santa Barbara shall notify the California Public Utilities Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch of the Rail Safety Division at least five business days prior to the opening of the crossing. Notification should be made by email to: rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.
8. Within thirty (30) days after completion of the work authorized by this decision, the County of Santa Barbara shall notify the California Public Utilities Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch of the Rail Safety Division by submitting a completed Commission Form G (Report of Completed Changes at Rail Crossings), for the completion of the authorized work. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the California Public Utilities Commission web site at www.cpuc.ca.gov/crossings. The completed report may be submitted via email to: rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.
9. The County of Santa Barbara shall work with Union Pacific Railroad to notify the Federal Railroad Administration by submitting a Crossing Inventory Form (FRA F6180.71) acknowledging the establishment of the crossing. A copy shall be provided concurrently to the California Public Utilities Commission's Rail Safety Division, Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch. This copy of the form may be submitted electronically to: rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.
10. This authorization shall expire if construction is not completed within forty-eight (48) months of the issuance of this decision unless time is extended or if the above conditions are not satisfied. Authorization may be revoked or modified if public convenience, necessity or safety so require.
11. A request for time extension of authorization must be submitted to the California Public Utilities Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch of the Rail Safety Division at least thirty (30) days before the expiration of that period.

RSD provides the recommended Ordering Paragraph language suggested above in order to ensure that the crossing is properly identified in the decision with a Commission and United

States Department of Transportation crossing number, and that the County is required to notify RSD prior to the crossing opening, as well as to keep RSD informed as to any need for an extension of the authorized time-frame for completing the crossing. RSD's suggested language is not intended to be exhaustive of the Ordering Paragraphs that may be included in a decision approving the crossing.

VI. CONCLUSION

RSD has thoroughly reviewed the requested crossing and has found no safety issues. RSD agrees that the crossing complies with all applicable regulatory and safety requirements and that the Application material meets the requirements set forth in the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. The Commission should approve this Application.

RODERICK HILL

Attorney

Rail Safety Division
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102
Telephone: (415) 703-4478
Email: Roderick.Hill@cpuc.ca.gov

July 17, 2026

ATTACHMENT A

**Rail Safety Division
Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch
Rail Crossing Application Check List**

Date: July 1, 2026

Applicant: County of Santa Barbara

Railroads / Transit Agencies: Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR)

Crossings Location (Roadway, City, and County): Paradiso Del Mare Multi-Use Overhead, Santa Barbara County

Crossings Type (Grade Type, Roadway, Bike Path, or Pedestrian): One grade-separated overhead pedestrian-rail crossing.

Crossing Numbers (CPUC/DOT): Paradiso Del Mare Multi-Use Overhead, CPUC No. 001E-352.84-AD, DOT No. 972559V.

Number and Type of Tracks: One UPRR Santa Barbara Subdivision main track

Type and Location of Warning Devices: None – the crossing will be constructed as a grade-separation

Diagnostic Review / Site Visit Date: RSD conducted its diagnostic review on December 16, 2024.

Compliance with the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure:

Rules of Practice and Procedure, Rule 3.7:

- (a) Milepost and Legal Location: MP 352.84 and Latitude-Longitude; see Exhibit A, containing “Location Description”.
- (b) The nearest existing public crossing to the east of the proposed crossing is Cathedral Oaks Rd (CPUC No. 001E-3554.60-A and DOT No. 440135U) and to the west of the proposed crossing is El Capitan State Beach Rd (CPUC No. 001E-347.45-B and DOT No. 745570W).
- (c) [Requirement for at-grade crossing only].
- (d) A map in compliance with Rule 3.7(d), “A map of suitable scale (50-200 feet per inch) ...”, is included as Exhibit A. Submitted plan has a scale of 100 feet per inch, compliant with Rule.
- (e) A map in compliance with Rule 3.7(e), “A map of suitable scale (1,000-3,000 feet per inch) ...”, is included as Exhibit B. Submitted map has a scale of 1000 feet per inch,

compliant with Rule.

(f) A profile in compliance with Rule 3.7(f) is included in Exhibit B3.

Applicable Safety and Regulatory Requirements:

General Order 26-D clearances:

The applicant is proposing 23 feet and 4 inches vertical clearance for the pedestrian overpass, which satisfies the 22 feet and 6 inches requirement.

The applicant is proposing 51.8-foot minimum horizontal clearance for the pedestrian overpass structure, which satisfies the 8 feet and 6 inches requirement.

Crossing Issues: None.

Application Review Date: June 24, 2026

Stakeholders / Contacts:

Jill Van Wie
Capital Program Manager
Community Service Department
County of Santa Barbara
123 East Anapamu Street, 2nd Floor
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Email: jvanwie@countyofsb.org

Kenneth Tom
Manager Public Projects
Union Pacific Railroad
8513 Verbena Dr.
Riverside, CA 92504
Email: ktom@up.com

CPUC

Matthew Ames, Rail Safety Division (RSD) Director, matthew.ames@cpuc.ca.gov
Antranig Garabetian, RSD RCEB Program Manager, antranig.garabetian@cpuc.ca.gov
Matthew Bond, RSD RCEB Program and Project Supervisor, matthew.bond@cpuc.ca.gov
Anh Truong, RSD RCEB Senior Utilities Engineer Supervisor, anh.truong@cpuc.ca.gov
Oliver Garcia, RSD RCEB Utilities Engineer, oliver.garcia@cpuc.ca.gov