

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Rail Safety Division

Resolution SX-167

May 14, 2026

R E S O L U T I O N

Resolution SX-167. Recommendation to the California Transportation Commission for increased funding to be set aside for maintaining automatic grade crossing protection devices under Public Utilities Code Section 1231.1.

PROPOSED OUTCOME:

- The California Public Utilities Commission adopts recommendation to the California Transportation Commission for a funding amount of \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2026-2027 for maintaining automatic grade crossing protection devices.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS:

- Increased funding ensures automatic warning devices at rail crossings participating in the Maintenance Fund program are maintained annually.

ESTIMATED COST:

- This resolution requests the California Transportation Commission set aside an additional \$3,000,000 for the Maintenance Fund program.

SUMMARY

This resolution recommends that, for the fiscal year 2026-2027, the California Transportation Commission allocate the sum of \$4,000,000 for the purpose of paying the local government's share of the cost of maintaining automatic grade crossing warning devices.

BACKGROUND

In 1965, the California Legislature (Legislature) established the Grade Crossing Protection Maintenance Fund to pay railroad corporations the local government's share of the cost of maintaining automatic railroad crossing warning devices installed or upgraded after October 1, 1965. Public Utilities Code section 1231.1 requires the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to set aside a minimum of \$1,000,000 for allocation to the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for the payment of those costs.

In 1988, the Legislature amended Public Utilities Code section 1231.1 so that the Commission may recommend a greater sum if it finds that \$1,000,000 is insufficient due to an increase in the number of grade crossing warning devices or in the cost of maintenance of those devices. The California Transportation Commission (CTC) makes the final determination on the specific amount of the total allocation.

DISCUSSION

When the Grade Crossing Protection Maintenance Fund was first established in 1965, the maximum annual allocation of \$1,000,000 was sufficient to cover all claims filed by railroad and street railroad corporations. Since then, the number of crossing warning devices and costs for maintaining these devices have increased and caused claims to exceed the funds available for calendar year 1977 and thereafter.

The railroad corporations perform the required maintenance during a given calendar year and file a claim with the Commission for reimbursement of the local government's share of the maintenance costs. The Commission verifies the claims and forwards valid claims to Caltrans for payment. Caltrans pays these claims from the fund allocation made by the CTC in the Caltrans budget. The CTC increased the fund allocation in fiscal year (FY) 2015-16 from \$2 Million to approximately \$3.75 Million. The CTC again increased the fund allocation in FY 2023-24 from \$3.75 Million to approximately \$4 Million. Claims and payments for the past five years were as follows:

CY *	FY*	No. of crossings	Total Claims (\$)	Total Paid (\$)
2020	20-21	2,574	3,656,447.00	3,656,447.00
2021	21-22	2,585	3,675,330.00	3,675,330.00
2022	22-23	2,569	3,649,494.00	3,649,494.00
2023	23-24	2,604	3,764,017.50	3,764,017.50
2024	24-25	2,656	3,826,189.10	3,826,189.10

*CY-Calendar Year

*FY-Fiscal Year

The maintenance fund claims for calendar year 2026 (FY 2026-2027) are expected to be at or near the budgeted \$4,000,000 for FY 2024-2025. Therefore, an allocation of \$4,000,000 will be needed for FY 2026-2027.

COMMENTS

Public Utilities Code section 311(g)(1) provides that this Resolution must be served on all parties and subject to at least 30 days public review. Any comments are due within 20 days of the date of its mailing and publication on the Commission’s website and in accordance with any instructions accompanying the notice. Public Utilities Code section 311(g)(2) provides that this 30-day review period and 20-day comment period may be reduced or waived upon the stipulation of all parties in the proceeding.

The 30-day review and 20-day comment period for the draft of this resolution was neither waived nor reduced. The draft resolution of the Rail Safety Division in this matter was mailed in accordance with Section 311 of the Public Utilities Code and Rule 14.2(d)(1) of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure.

No comments were received.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

1. The Commission Rail Safety Division’s (RSD) Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) reviewed the amount needed to be allocated to the Grade Crossing Protection Maintenance Fund and finds that \$1,000,000 will be insufficient. An allocation of \$4,000,000 is the minimum amount necessary to the Grade Crossing Protection Maintenance Fund for the claims anticipated in FY 2026-2027.
2. In accordance with Public Utilities Code section 1231.1, the Commission should recommend the CTC allocate a sum of \$4,000,000 to the Grade Crossing Protection Maintenance Fund for FY 2026-2027 for the purpose of paying the local

government's share of the costs of maintaining automatic grade crossing protection warning devices.

3. RCEB recommends that the Commission adopt this Resolution.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The California Public Utilities Commission recommends the California Transportation Commission allocate a sum of \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2026-2027 to the Grade Crossing Protection Maintenance Fund, for the purpose of paying the local government's share of the costs of maintaining automatic grade crossing protection warning devices pursuant to Public Utilities Code section 1231.1.

2. This Resolution is effective today.

The foregoing resolution was duly introduced, passed and adopted by the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 14, 2026. The following Commissioners voting favorably thereon:

/s/Leuwam Tesfai
LEUWAM TESFAI
Executive Director

JOHN REYNOLDS
President

DARCIE L. HOUCK
KAREN DOUGLAS
MATTHEW BAKER
CHRISTINE HARADA
Commissioners

Dated May 14, 2026, at San Francisco, California