

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

320 WEST 4TH STREET, SUITE 500  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90013



January 8, 2025

ENVR 20250100003

Jimmy Duran  
City of Brawley  
205 South Imperial Ave  
Brawley, CA 92227

**Re: Rancho Los Lagos Specific Plan Project [SCH 2007071107](#) — *Notice of Preparation of a Draft EIR***

Dear Mr. Duran:

The California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) has jurisdiction over rail crossings (crossings) in California. CPUC ensures that crossings are safely designed, constructed, and maintained. The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Branch (RCEB) is in receipt of the *Notice of Exemption (NOE)* for the proposed Rancho Los Lagos Specific Plan Project (Project). City of Brawley (City) is the lead agency.

The Project Applicant, the City, proposes to annex 1,076-acre project site, consisting of two parcels (APN 040-130-10 and APN 040-130-012) and expand the infrastructure to support this project. The Project is designed for a residential community of 3,830 dwelling units, a golf course, open recreational areas, a fire station, two schools, commercial development, and an industrial business park. The Project scope is bound by State Route 86, Mead Road, Dogwood Road and Schartz Road. The Project includes one existing at-grade public rail crossing, Mead Road (DOT # 760839L, CPUC No. 001BN-687.90), and two at-grade private crossings, Near Schartz Road (DOT # 760840F, CPUC No. 001BN-688.40-X), and Schartz Road (DOT # 760841M, CPUC No. 001BN-688.90-X).

Based on RCEB's review of the Project it appears that the private crossing over Schartz Road will be converted to a public grade-separated crossing. One primary arterial is to enter/exit the project near the Schartz Road private rail crossing with two class 2 bicycle paths and multiuse trail, one at the northeast corner of the project and the other at the southeast corner at Schartz Road.

The Project will need to apply for the conversion of the private rail crossing at Schartz Road (DOT # 760841) to be converted to a public rail crossing by way of a Formal Application with the CPUC. If private rail crossing Near Schartz Road (DOT # 760840F) is to be converted to a public rail crossing, it too will need to be filed by way of a Formal Application with the CPUC. RCEB is requesting that the City reach out to the RCEB Staff ASAP to discuss the details of the proposed rail crossings before the filing the Formal Applications to avoid any difficulties with the application process.

RCEB is available to discuss any policies, procedures, potential safety impacts or concerns at the crossings and address any questions from the City.

If you have any questions, please contact Howard Huie at (415) 308-0533, or [howard.huie@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:howard.huie@cpuc.ca.gov).

Jimmy Duran  
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anh Truong', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the name.

Anh Truong  
~~Senior~~ Utilities Engineer (Supervisor)  
Rail Crossings Engineering Branch  
Rail Safety Division

CC: State Clearinghouse, [state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov](mailto:state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov)  
Ken Tom, UPRR, [ktom@up.com](mailto:ktom@up.com)