

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



February 13, 2025

ENVR 20250200006

Janney Lockman  
City of Richmond  
450 Civic Center Plaza  
Richmond, CA 94804

**Re: Downtown Point Richmond Bicycle & Pedestrian Connectivity Project [SCH 2025011006](#) — *Notice of Exemption***

Dear Janney Lockman:

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 Downtown Point Richmond Bicycle & Pedestrian Connectivity Project. City of Richmond (City) is the lead agency.

The Project Applicant proposes to construct protected bicycle lanes on existing roadways, close gaps in existing sidewalk network, make improvements to bus infrastructure to improve pedestrian, bicyclist, and transit rider safety and access. The project includes the Richmond Avenue at-grade highway rail crossing (CPUC No. 002-1190.40, DOT No. 029886H).

Any modifications to an existing rail crossing or its approaches requires CPUC authorization under the General Order 88-B process. Constructing protected bicycle lanes and sidewalk improvements modifies the crossing's use and traffic dynamics, and may affect the safety of the public using the crossing. Additionally, the crossing has been designated as a Quiet Zone. Any changes to the crossing could impact this designation, requiring notification to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to ensure compliance and assess safety impacts.

RCEB is available to discuss any potential safety impacts or concerns at the crossings and address any questions from the City, and recommends the City communicate with RCEB during its design process to facilitate the GO 88-B process early and help mitigate any safety concerns.

If you have any questions, please contact Ramineh Medhat at (415)791-2612, or [ramineh.medhat@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:ramineh.medhat@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Matthew Bond, PE, TE  
Program and Project Supervisor  
Rail Crossings Engineering Branch  
Rail Safety Division

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