

**REQUEST TO CPUC STAFF FOR AUTHORIZATION TO
ALTER HIGHWAY-RAIL CROSSING
PURSUANT TO GENERAL ORDER 88-B**



1. Date Submitted: October 16, 2012

2. Applicant Info

Organization Name:	Monterey County Public Works Department
Contact Person:	Robert K. Murdoch, P.E.
Title:	Director of Public Works
Street Address:	168 West Alisal Street, 2 nd Floor
City:	Salinas, CA
Zip:	93901
Phone:	(831) 755-4800
Email:	MurdochRK@co.monterey.ca.us

3. Crossing proposed to be altered

PUC Crossing Number:	#001E-123.45
U.S. DOT Crossing Number:	#752175E
Street Name:	Somavia Road
City:	Unincorporated County (South of Salinas, CA)
County:	Monterey County
Railroad Responsible for Crossing:	Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR)
Other Railroads Operating on Tracks:	Amtrak

4. Describe Proposed Alterations (including any temporary reduced clearance variance requests): The proposed alterations include the construction of a 150'x12' deceleration taper and 75'x12' acceleration taper on the west side of US 101 for southbound traffic at the Somavia Road intersection. The widening improvements on US 101 also include 8' shoulders. The shoulder area on north and south of Somavia Road (between UPRR crossing and US 101) will also be improved. The proposed alterations also include the installation of new railroad crossing signs and pavement markings on US 101 and Somavia Road, as well as a "DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS" sign and "TRUCKS USE US 101/MAIN STREET INTERCHANGE (with right arrow)" sign for eastbound traffic on Somavia Road approaching the UPRR tracks and US 101.

5. Describe the public benefits to be achieved by the proposed alterations: The public will benefit from the proposed project through improvements to public safety on US 101 and Somavia Road. The project will construct additional area for vehicle deceleration and acceleration when exiting and entering US 101 from Somavia Road. This will reduce the need for through traffic on US 101 to slow down when vehicles are entering or exiting Somavia Road.

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6. Explain why a separation of grades is not practicable: A grade separation is not practical due to the distance between the UPRR crossing and US 101 (approximately 70'). In addition, Somavia Road only serves the local agriculture fields, 8 small tenant farmer houses, 2 small farm houses and the Helena Chemical Co, building. The paved section ends approximately 0.5 mile west of US 101 and carries less than 1,000 vehicles per day.

7. Describe crossing warning devices

Current:	The UPRR crossing is signalized with a gate. The existing railroad warning devices consist of Commission Standard No. 9 (flashing light signals and automatic gate) for both directions on Somavia Road.
Proposed:	The project does not include improvements to the existing railroad warning devices.

8. Temporary Traffic Controls - Include a statement of temporary traffic controls to be provided during construction: Temporary traffic control measure during construction will adhere to the 2010 Caltrans Standard Plans, 2012 California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and UPRR requirements.

9. Signature

I, Robert K. Murdoch, am an employee of the County of Monterey and authorized to sign this GO 88-B authorization request letter on its behalf.

Robert K. Murdoch, P.E.
Director of Public Works

Typed Name and Title

Signature and date

Attachments:

1. Vicinity Map - Map of Immediate Vicinity on a scale of 50 to 200 ft/inch
2. Exhibit "A" Letter dated July 31, 2012 from Helena Chemical Company.
3. Exhibit "B" Conceptual Design.

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10. Evidence of Agreement:

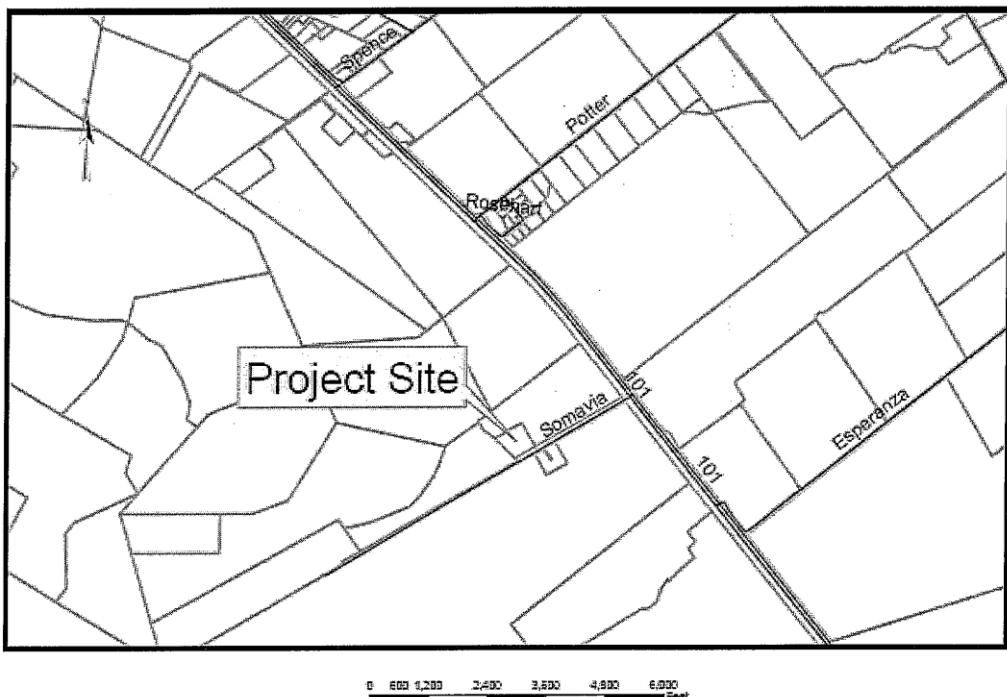
I, Daren Gilbert, am an employee of the California Public Utilities Commission and authorized to sign this letter of agreement on its behalf, hereby declare that California Public Utilities Commission concurs with the proposed project described above.

I, Steve Senet, am an employee of California Department of Transportation and authorized to sign this letter of agreement on its behalf, hereby declare that California Department of Transportation concurs with the proposed project described above.

Steve Senet, District Five Encroachment Permit Engineer Permits Branch	
Typed Name and Title	Signature and date
50 Higuera St. San Luis Obispo, CA 93401	
Address	

Note: If there are additional interested parties, make additional copies of this page.

Vicinity Map



Vicinity Map

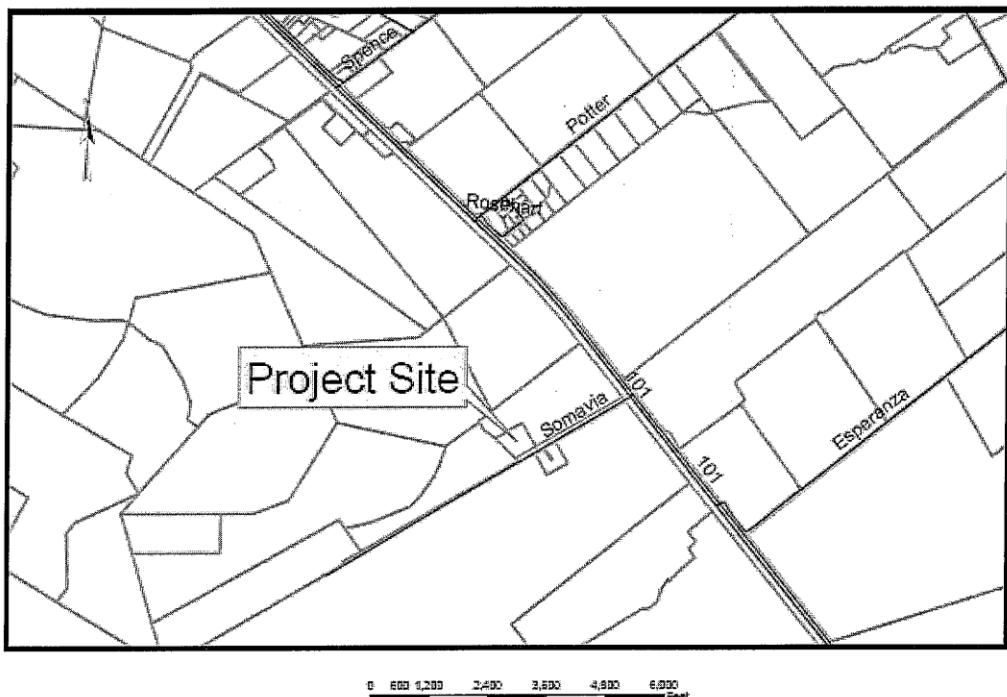


EXHIBIT A



HELENA CHEMICAL COMPANY
225 Schilling Blvd., Suite 500
Collierville, Tennessee 38017
Phone: (901) 781-0050

RECEIVED

AUG 01 2012

PUBLIC WORKS - ADMIN

LEGAL DEPARTMENT

Writer's Direct Line: (901) 537-7216
Fax Number: (901) 537-8677
E-Mail: MurphyJ@helenachemical.com

July 31, 2012

Via Federal Express

Raul Martinez
County of Monterey
Department of Public Works
168 W. Alisal Street 2nd Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

RE: 22250 Somavia Road, Salinas, CA

Director	Asst. Director	Office
MEG #		
Arch/Eng/Fac		
Const/Maint/Fleet		
Finance		
Design		
Community Dev	Adlawen, Minio, Martinez	
Project Dev		
Enviro/Traffic		
Notes		
MF: Somavia Rd		

Dear Mr. Martinez,

Per your discussion with Gareth Davis on July 26th, 2012, below is Helena Chemical Company's statement of its intent to move into 22250 Somavia Road at a partial operating capacity.

For PLN 100620 Helena proposed to the County that Phase 1 of the operation will consist of Helena's current operation in the City of Salinas moving into the existing modified facilities on 22250 Somavia Road. This operation consists of the use of Helena transport vehicles (32' Flat Bed Trucks or 45,000GVWR) delivering pre packaged goods and liquid fertilizer semi bulk loads to customers. The products that are received to the facility are normally full size trucks (45,000GVWR – 80,000GVWR) that deliver only pre-packaged products.

On November 21st, 2011, a mutual agreement between Helena and CAL Trans was reached to allow the use of Helena vehicles prior to the completion of Condition #17(PWSPD1). In short, Helena will not receive any "Larger Big Rig Trucks", as stated in John Olejnik's email to Raul Martinez, until the improvements are constructed at the intersection of Highway 101 and Somavia Road.

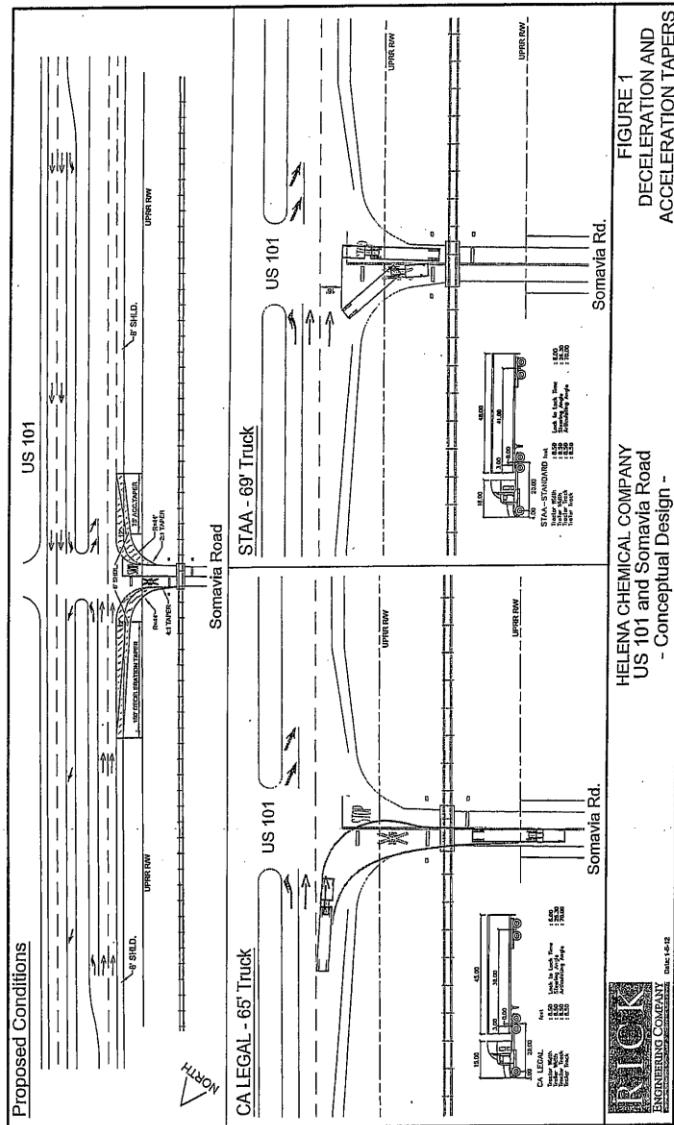
If there are any questions or concerns relating to this letter, please contact Gareth Davis at (559) 285-3473.

Sincerely,

HELENA CHEMICAL COMPANY

Joah T. Murphy
Assistant General Counsel

EXHIBIT B



Vicinity Map

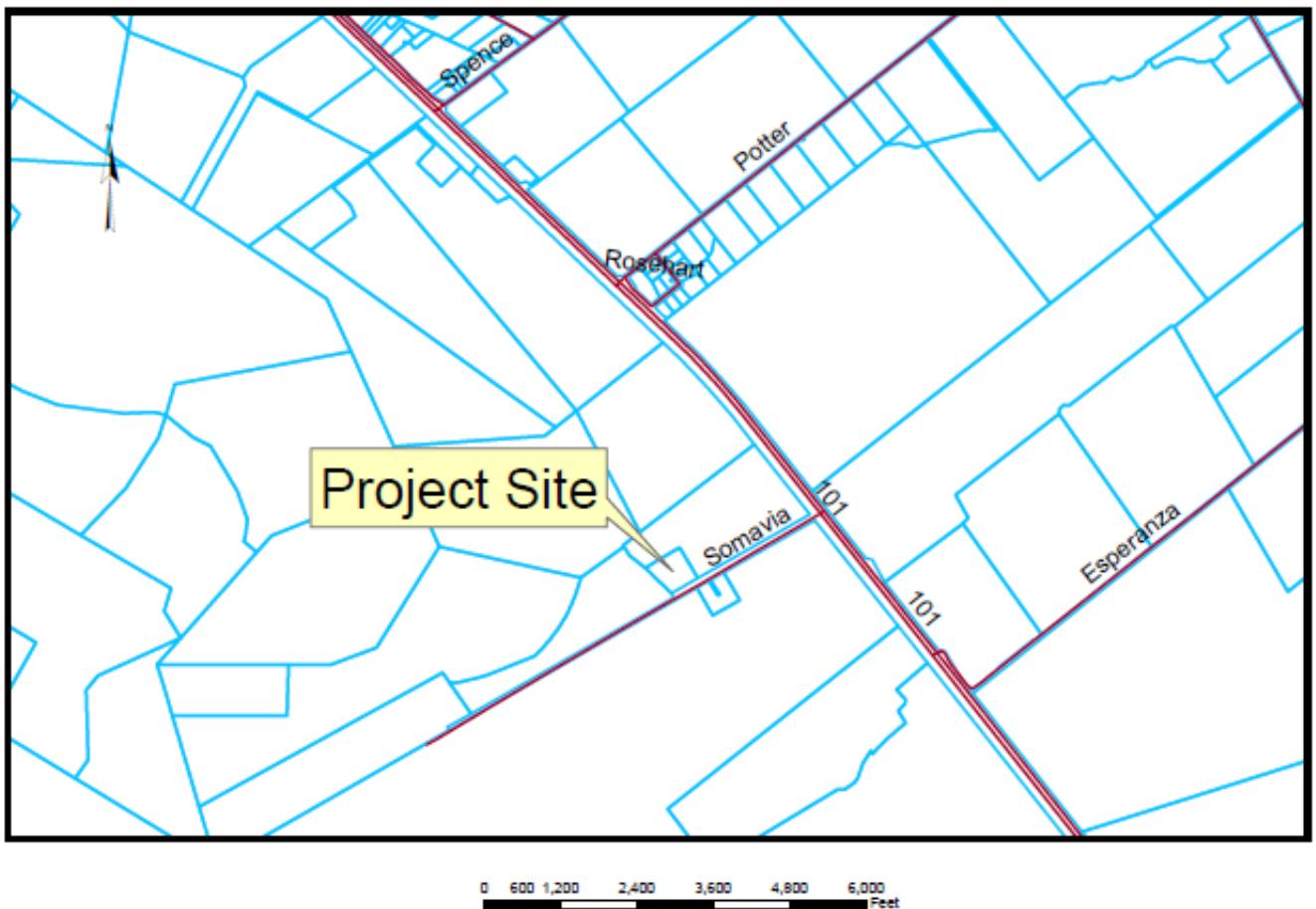


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Sincerely,

HELENA CHEMICAL COMPANY

Joan T. Murphy
Assistant General Counsel

