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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CLEAR

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

11-5-15

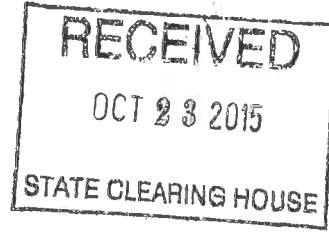
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320 WEST 4TH STREET, SUITE 500  
ANGELES, CA 90013  
, 576-7083



October 23, 2015

Jacqueline Onciano  
County of Monterey  
168 W. Alisal Street  
Salinas, CA 93901



Dear Jacqueline:

**Re: SCH 2015101025 Monterey County 2015-2023 Housing Element - DND**

The California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) has jurisdiction over the safety of highway-rail crossings (crossings) in California. The California Public Utilities Code requires Commission approval for the construction or alteration of crossings and grants the Commission exclusive power on the design, alteration, and closure of crossings in California. The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Branch (RCEB) has received the draft *Negative Declaration (DND)* from the State Clearinghouse for the proposed County of Monterey (County) 2015-2023 Housing Element.

According to the DND, the project area includes active railroad tracks. RCEB recommends that the County add language to the Housing Element so that any future development adjacent to or near the railroad/light rail right-of-way (ROW) is planned with the safety of the rail corridor in mind. New developments may increase traffic volumes not only on streets and at intersections, but also at at-grade crossings. This includes considering pedestrian circulation patterns or destinations with respect to railroad ROW and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Mitigation measures to consider include, but are not limited to, the planning for grade separations for major thoroughfares, improvements to existing at-grade crossings due to increase in traffic volumes, and continuous vandal resistant fencing or other appropriate barriers to limit the access of trespassers onto the railroad ROW.

If you have any questions in this matter, please contact me at (213) 576-7076, [ykc@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:ykc@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Ken Chiang, P.E.  
Utilities Engineer  
Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch  
Safety and Enforcement Division

C: State Clearinghouse

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