



City of Encinitas

Office of
The Mayor

August 21, 2019

Assemblymember Tasha Boerner Horvath
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4130
Sacramento, CA 95814

Catherine S. Blakespear
Mayor

RE: Letter of Support for AB 1017 (Boerner Horvath) – Safety Assessment of Planned Railroad Crossings

Jody Hubbard
Deputy Mayor

Dear Assemblymember Boerner Horvath:

On behalf of the City of Encinitas I am writing in support of AB 1017, which would provide cities and counties with a safety assessment of planned railroad crossing projects before they submit applications to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for approval.

Kellie Shay Hinze
Council Member

When a city or county applies to the CPUC to modify or build a new railroad crossing, engineers from the Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch of the CPUC are sent to inspect and evaluate the safety of the proposed crossing. While CPUC engineers are available to answer questions in advance of an application submission, safety assessments are not provided until after the application has been submitted.

Tony Kranz
Council Member

The lack of a safety assessment in the midst of the planning process can create more dangerous railroad crossings for pedestrians, delays in project completion, and can often require significant modifications to be made to the proposed plan which increases the time and cost of the planning and approval process.

Joe Mosca
Council Member

AB 1017 would require that CPUC engineers be available to assess and advise on the safety of proposed new or modified rail crossings before an application is filed. Making CPUC engineers available to review proposed crossing projects before applications are submitted will minimize the time and cost required to obtain approval from the CPUC and enable cities and counties to plan the proposed rail projects immediately addressing the CPUC's safety requirements.

Karen P. Brust
City Manager

The City of Encinitas is bifurcated by a railway, separating much of the City's residences from the many business on Highway 101 and from the beach, which is a significant source or recreation for the community, as well as a popular destination for tourists. Safe locations to cross the railway are critical to reducing transportation by motor vehicles and to increase pedestrian safety.

Thank you for your commitment to promoting safety around railroad crossings, protecting drivers and pedestrians. The City of Encinitas is a proud supporter of AB 1017.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Blakespear', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Catherine Blakespear
Mayor

CC: JGC Governmental Relations
Catherine Hill, League of California Cities
Encinitas Mayor and Council Members
Encinitas City Manager, Karen P. Brust