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Utilities and Transportation Commission
ATTN: Mark Halliday, Vicki Elliott
Grade Crossing Protective Fund
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

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MAY 14 2007
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STATE OF WASH.
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COMMISSION

The City of Sultan applied for a Grade Crossing Protective Fund grant in 2006 (copy attached) and was awarded \$20,000 to improve the RR crossing on Skywall Drive. The purpose of such funds are to improve public safety hazards at railroad crossings and along railroad rights-of-way related to trespass prevention projects, private grade crossing safety improvements, miscellaneous safety projects, and public grade crossing safety improvements. The city requested letters of support for the grant from us and we submitted letters explaining the serious and dangerous situation. The application states the application is for a "miscellaneous safety project".

We now believe, however, that the purpose of the submitted application is somewhat misleading, deceptive, and possibly fraudulent and the real purpose was to supplement a private residential development and not our safety.

While the application lists "Dan Ramirez, citizen and property owner - Public/Private Partnership" as a party that may be involved, it omits the fact that Ramirez has applied for a permit to develop his adjacent property with multiple (23) residences and that he and the city intend to run a sewer and natural gas line under the RR tracks at the same time to accommodate the housing development. Following the approval of this grant, the Ramirez PUD was not approved and another application is in the planning stage. In the meantime, the city has not even initiated the start of the "project", waiting for the Ramirez development reapplication and apparently to supplement it with these grant funds. In the meantime, the crossing remains dangerous and waiting for a "catastrophe" to occur. We hope you can get this safety project started.