

GENERAL ORDER NO. 88-A
(Supersedes General Order No. 88)

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

RULES FOR ALTERING PUBLIC RAILROAD-HIGHWAY GRADE CROSSINGS

ADOPTED JANUARY 19, 1982 EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 18, 1982
(RESOLUTION NO. ET-1297)

Case No. 3145
Decision No. 24505
(37 C. R. C. 220)

(Original Order Approved February 23, 1982. Effective March 15, 1982)

The following rules govern the alteration of existing public railroad-highway grade crossings.

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of these regulations is to establish criteria for alteration of existing public railroad-highway grade crossings.

2. SCOPE

The following railroad-highway grade crossing alteration projects shall be governed by these rules:

- 2.1 Grade crossing widening within the existing street right-of-way.
- 2.2 Approach grade changes.
- 2.3 Track elevation changes.
- 2.4 Roadway realignment that is functionally related to the existing crossing and can be achieved within the existing or a contiguous right-of-way.
- 2.5 Addition of one track within the existing railroad right-of-way.

3. CRITERIA

- 3.1 The public agencies having jurisdiction over the roadway involved and the railroad corporation shall be in agreement as to the public necessity for altering the existing railroad-highway grade crossing.
- 3.2 The proposed alteration(s) shall comply with the Commission's General Orders 72 and 75.

4. NOTICE AND AUTHORIZATION

Notice of the proposed alteration and a request for authority shall be served on the Commission staff at least 45 days before the date the alteration is planned to start. The staff shall review the request covering the alteration and within 45 days from the date of receipt indicate to applicant its position.

5. FORM AND CONTENTS OF REQUEST

Requests shall be filed in duplicate by letter on paper 8½" by 11" in size and shall include the following information:

- 5.1 The Commission's assigned crossing number and the U. S. Department of Transportation—American Association of Railroads' number for the crossing proposed to be altered.
- 5.2 A statement describing the proposed alteration(s).
- 5.3 A statement showing the public benefit to be achieved by the proposed alteration(s).
- 5.4 A statement showing why a separation of grades is not practicable under the circumstances.
- 5.5 A statement indicating the existing and proposed warning devices at the crossing.
- 5.6 A map of the immediate vicinity of the crossing proposed to be altered on a scale of 50 to 200 feet per inch showing the location of streets and roads, property lines, tracks, buildings, other obstructions to the view of the crossing, and the present width of the approaches and the roadway at the crossing.
- 5.7 A profile showing the present and proposed grade lines of both the railroad and the highway.
- 5.8 Evidence of agreement between the parties relative to the proposed alteration(s).
- 5.9 A general statement indicating the temporary traffic controls and type(s) of warning devices to be provided, if any, during the period of construction of the proposed alteration. The temporary traffic controls shall be in compliance with Section 8A-5, Traffic Controls During Construction and Maintenance, of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, U.S. Department of Transportation.
- 5.10 Where the alteration of the crossing is of a minor nature, such as a change in elevation of eight inches or less, or a total widening of six feet or less and no additional warning devices or changes in existing warning devices are proposed, Items 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6 and 5.7 may be omitted from the request.

6. APPLICATION REQUIRED WHERE THE PARTIES ARE NOT IN AGREEMENT

Where the parties, including the staff, are not in agreement as to the necessity for or extent of the alteration or apportionment of cost of a proposed change in an existing railroad-highway grade crossing, or the proposed alteration is beyond the scope of this General Order, the party desiring the change shall apply to the Commission for authority to make the alteration. The application shall comply with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (California Administrative Code, Title 20).

7. RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONSTRUCTION

All work between the rails of a railroad and within two feet outside of the rails shall be performed under the supervision of the railroad.

The railroad shall be responsible for the physical construction of additional warning devices or any changes in the existing warning devices at the crossing. This section shall not be construed as an apportionment of the cost of such work.

8. APPLICATION MUST BE MADE FOR NEW CROSSING

Nothing contained herein shall be construed as authorizing the construction of a new crossing of a railroad across a public street or highway at grade or the construction of a public street or highway at grade across the tracks of a railroad corporation.

Dated January 19, 1982 at San Francisco, California.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

By **JOSEPH E. BODOVITZ**
Executive Director

