

Leonard Guillette
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City of Atwater
750 Bellevue Road
Atwater, CA 95301

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740 E. Carnegie Drive
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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

515 L Street, Suite 1119
Sacramento, CA 95814



March 15, 2010

Leonard Guillette
Deputy Director of Engineering
City of Atwater
750 Bellevue Road
Atwater, CA 95301

File No. G.10-02-002

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter Bellevue Road Highway–Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 002-1062.50, DOT No. 028688J in the City of Atwater, Merced County.

Dear Mr. Guillette:

This refers to your letter received by us on February 5, 2010, requesting authorization pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter an at-grade highway-rail crossing of the BNSF Railway (BNSF) tracks in the City of Atwater (City), Merced County. The crossing is identified as the Bellevue Road Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 002-1062.50, DOT No. 028688J.

Bellevue Road is a two-lane local roadway which runs east-west through rural and urban parts of the City. The Bellevue Road crossing has no median on either side of the crossing. There is a sidewalk, ending west of the tracks, on the north and south sides of Bellevue Road. On the east side of the crossing, there are no sidewalks along Bellevue Road. Santa Fe Drive, a major Merced County roadway, is located east of the crossing and has no sidewalks on either side of the roadway in the area near the crossing. The Bellevue Road crossing has two tracks, a mainline and a siding, frequented by BNSF freight and Amtrak trains. The crossing is equipped with a Commission Standard 9–A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm with additional flashing lights over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning device in the SW quadrant, and a Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) in the NE quadrant.

The City states in its GO 88-B request letter that “These improvements, which have been recommended by the Rail Crossings Engineering Section of the CPUC, will minimize the chances of train-vehicle accidents at this crossing. The proposed improvements will more clearly direct traffic through the rail crossing and minimize driver confusion.” This project is being done in conjunction with the Section 130 Program.

The proposed alterations, as indicated in the request letter and/or shown in the attachments, shall consist of:

- constructing curb, gutter, and raised concrete medians on the Bellevue Road approaches to the crossing;
- realigning the sidewalks per plan;
- installing a pedestrian barricade, in accordance with the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD), Section 3F.01, at the end of both sidewalks on the west side of the crossing;
- installing street lights per plan;
- reconstructing the raised concrete median located southeasterly of the adjacent spur track crossing on Santa Fe Drive;
- constructing a raised concrete median curb for the left turn lane for traffic turning left from Santa Fe Drive to Bellevue Road;
- installing signage and striping per plan.

Staff has investigated the request by the City, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City and BNSF are in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, you may proceed with the improvements as described in your request letter and attachments, and summarized above.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with Section 8A.05, Temporary Traffic Control Zones, of the CAMUTCD, published by Caltrans.

All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders, and the CAMUTCD.

This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended [California Public Resources Code 21084].

This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within two years of the date of this letter. Upon written request to this office, the time to complete the project may be extended. A written request for a time extension must include concurrence letters by interested parties in support of the time extension. If an extension is requested, staff from the Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, the City shall notify RCES that the authorized work is completed by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G titled *Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossings and Separations*. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the CPUC web site Form G page at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/formg>. This report may be submitted electronically to rces@cpuc.ca.gov as outlined on the web page.

If you have any questions, please contact Marvin Kennix at (916) 324-7135 or email at mlk@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daren Gilbert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "G".

Daren Gilbert, Supervisor
Rail Crossings Engineering Section
Consumer Protection and Safety Division

Cc:

John Stilley
Manager of Industry and Public Projects
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