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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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March 15, 2010

File Number: G.10-02-007
City of Riverside, Riverside County

Debbie Anderson
Senior Engineer
City of Riverside
3900 Main Street, 4th Floor
Riverside, CA 92522

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Modify the Iowa Avenue At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 002B-7.30 and DOT No. 026472W in the City of Riverside, Riverside County

Dear Ms. Anderson:

This refers to your letter, dated February 12, 2010 (received February 22, 2010) requesting authorization, pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the existing at-grade crossing of BNSF Railway Company's (BNSF) Mainline 2B railroad tracks at Iowa Avenue in the City of Riverside, Riverside County. The Iowa Avenue highway-rail crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 002B-7.30 and DOT Number 026472W.

Iowa Avenue is a major north-south arterial that extends from Interstate 215 to the 1100 acre Hunter Business Park area. Iowa Avenue crossing is currently a divided roadway with four lanes, two in each direction, equipped with two Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) and two Commission Standard 9-A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning devices. In addition to BNSF freight trains, the National Passenger Railroad Corporation (Amtrak) and Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) operates passenger trains on this line.

The City of Riverside (City) proposes the following alterations:

- Construct a grade-separated overhead bridge structure, crossing BNSF railroad tracks.

During construction, Iowa Avenue will be closed to all vehicular and pedestrian traffic and the existing at-grade crossing will be removed including all railroad warning devices.

The project proposes a temporary minimum vertical clearance of 22 feet 6 inches and a permanent vertical clearance of 24 feet 6 inches which complies with the minimum clearance requirements specified in Commission General Order (GO) 26-D therefore does not require temporary or permanent clearance deviations.

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The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) 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 alterations as described in your request letter and summarized above.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with Section 8A.05, Temporary Traffic Control Zones, of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD), published by the California Department of Transportation.

All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices published by the California Department of Transportation.

This project is statutorily exempt from the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended. [California Public Resources Code 21080.13]

This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within three years of the date of this letter. Upon written request to this office, the time to complete the project may be extended. Any written request for a time extension must include concurrence letters by involved parties in support of the time extension. If an extension is requested, 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 Bill Lay at (213)-576-1399 or bll@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

Cc: Melvin Thomas, BNSF Railway
Harry Steelman, Amtrak
William Doran, SCRRA