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## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

515 L Street, Suite 1119  
Sacramento, CA 95814



April 12, 2010

Johnathan L. Doyel  
Deputy Director of Public Works  
City of Hanford  
900 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Hanford, CA 93230

File No. G.10-03-003

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter Lacey Boulevard Highway–Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 002-968.00, DOT No. 028425V in the City of Hanford, Kings County.**

Dear Mr. Doyel:

This refers to your letter dated March 8, 2010, and received by us on March 12, 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 Hanford (City), Kings County. The crossing is identified as Lacey Boulevard Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 002-968.00, DOT No. 028425V.

Lacey Boulevard is primarily a four-lane urban, principal roadway at the crossing and throughout the City. Lacey Boulevard has a sidewalk across the crossing on both sides of the roadway. There are painted but no raised concrete medians at the crossing. The Lacey Boulevard crossing has two tracks frequented by Amtrak and BNSF freight trains. The crossing is equipped with two Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate) warning devices.

The City states in its GO 88-B request letter that “The benefit to the public from the proposed alterations will be improved safety. The installation of the medians is intended to reduce the possibility of motorists driving around the lowered Commission Standard 9 crossing arms.” 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:

- installing a raised concrete, 11 foot wide median on both sides of the crossing per plan;

- replacing the existing Commission Standard 9 warning devices with four new Commission Standard 9 warning devices, one on both of the medians, and on the shoulder of the roadway in the NE and SW quadrants;
- installing a Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) warning device adjacent to the sidewalk in the NW and SE quadrants per plan;
- installing ADA compliant detectable warning (tactile strips) surfaces on all four sidewalk approaches per plan;
- installing pedestrian ramps at the NE and NW corners of the intersection of Park Avenue and Lacey Boulevard;
- reconstructing the Park Avenue roadway (to allow only for one-way northbound traffic) and both sidewalks on Park Avenue per plan;
- installing fencing on the west side of Park Avenue (east side of the tracks) near and at the railroad right-of-way per plan;
- installing all 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 California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (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](mailto: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](mailto: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 initial "D" and "G".

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

Cc:

Steven Weatherly  
Assistant Engineer  
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