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## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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July 9, 2010

David Leamon  
Senior Civil Engineer  
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County of Stanislaus  
1716 Morgan Street  
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File No. G.10-06-003

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter South McClure Road Highway–Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 028-3.70, DOT No. 853846F in the County of Stanislaus.**

Dear Mr. Leamon:

This refers to your letter dated June 3, 2010, and received by us on June 4, 2010, requesting authorization pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter an at-grade highway-rail crossing of the Modesto & Empire Traction Company (MET) tracks in the County of Stanislaus (County). The crossing is identified as South McClure Road Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 028-3.70, DOT No. 853846F.

South McClure Road is a three-lane local roadway in an industrial, unincorporated area within the County. South McClure Road has no sidewalks at the crossing. There is a median on the south side of the crossing; there is no median on the north side. The South McClure Road crossing has two tracks frequented by MET freight trains. The northernmost track is less than 30 feet south of where South McClure Road intersects with State Route (SR) 132, with the rail line running parallel to SR 132. The crossing is equipped with one 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 with additional flashing lights over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning devices.

The County states in its GO 88-B request letter that “Public safety and truck turning movements will be benefited through the improvements at this crossing. The installation of CPUC Standard No. 9 warning devices will separate motorists from the ME&T Railroad Crossing while train activity is occurring. The installation of a raised median north of the RR crossing will reduce the possibility of motorists driving around the No. 9 gate arms.”

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

- Removing the Commission Standard No. 9-A warning device in the northwest quadrant of the crossing and replacing it with a new Commission Standard No. 9 warning device with LED lenses on the shoulder of the roadway per plan. Sidelights will be installed on the warning device as required;
- installing curbing in the northwest quadrant to provide necessary clearance requirements for the new shoulder-mounted warning device mast per plan;
- installing a raised concrete median on the north side of the crossing per plan;
- installing a new Commission Standard No. 9 warning device with LED lenses on the north side median per plan. Sidelights will be installed on the warning device as required;
- connecting the new warning devices with the traffic signals at the South McClure Road/ SR 132 intersection to continue to provide railroad preemption at the crossing;
- widening the road radius returns at the northwest and northeast corners to accommodate required truck turning movements per plan;
- installing the following signs per plan: a W10-2 at-grade crossing advance warning sign on both SR 132 approaches, with a W48(CA) (Number of Tracks) sign installed directly below each W10-2 sign, as required by the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD), Section 8B.04; a W10-1 at-grade crossing advance warning sign with a W48(CA) sign installed directly below it on the southbound approach of N. McClure Road, north of the SR 132/South McClure Road intersection, per CAMUTCD, Section 8B.04 (At-grade crossing pavement markings (RXR) corresponding to the location of the W10-1 sign shall be painted on the roadway per CAMUTCD, Section 8B.20); and an R8-8 (DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS) sign on the northbound approach, near and south of the south side warning device. The R8-8 sign will be installed with the consideration that it shall not block the visibility of the warning device lamps. The other R8-8 sign, shown on the original plan farther south of the crossing, will not be installed as agreed per phone conversation between Staff and County personnel on 6/8/10 (the County submitted a revised plan showing this change after submitting the original plan);
- repainting the faded at-grade crossing pavement markings (RXR) on the northbound South McClure Road approach.

Staff has investigated the request by the County and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the County, MET, and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) 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 County 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) 928-3809 or email at [mlk@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:mlk@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



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Rail Crossings Engineering Section  
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Cc:

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