

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 Promenade Circle, Suite 115
Sacramento, CA 95834



March 1, 2011

David Leamon
Senior Civil Engineer
Department of Public Works
County of Stanislaus
1716 Morgan Street
Modesto, CA 95358

File No. G.11-01-007

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter Main Street Highway–Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 002-1079.40, DOT No. 028725J, in the County of Stanislaus.

Dear Mr. Leamon:

This refers to your request letter signed by you on January 5, 2011 and received by us on January 20, 2011 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 County of Stanislaus (County). The crossing is identified as Main Street Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 002-1079.40, DOT No. 028725J.

Main Street, running northeast-southwest, is a rural, two-lane major collector roadway at the crossing. The Main Street crossing has three tracks frequented by BNSF freight and Amtrak passenger trains. There are no medians at the crossing. There is a partial sidewalk on the north side of the roadway. To the east of the crossing, Santa Fe Avenue runs parallel to the track and forms an intersection with Main Street, which is controlled by a 4-way stop. The crossing is equipped with two Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate) warning devices.

This project is being done in conjunction with the Section 130 Program. The County states in its GO 88-B request letter that “The construction of the ADA compliant pedestrian walkway will provide safer access for pedestrians to cross the railroad crossing. The addition of the raised median with tubular delineators should help to deter motorists from passing stopped vehicles at the railroad crossing.”

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

- Upgrading the existing incandescent lamp lenses with 12 inch LED assemblies with 24 inch hoods;

- installing constant time warning device train detection;
- installing a new signal house;
- installing a Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) warning device with a R15-8 sign attached in the northwest quadrant per plan;
- installing an extension of the concrete panel surface between the existing pedestrian walkway and the concrete panel surface in the roadway to close the gap in between per plan;
- installing approximately 10 feet of asphalt concrete dike in the northeast and southwest quadrants (total 20 feet) in front of the railroad warning devices at a minimum distance of 4'-3" from the centerline of the warning devices to meet clearance requirements per plan;
- extending a 5-foot wide asphalt concrete pedestrian pathway on the north side of Main Street to Santa Fe Avenue per plan;
- improving and repairing the asphalt concrete pedestrian pathway in the northwest quadrant per plan;
- installing ADA compliant detectable warning tactile strips (raised truncated domes) on both approaches of the pedestrian pathway on the north side of the roadway per plan;
- installing a median curb and a delineator system on the yellow median stripe beginning on the roadway at 10 feet east from the centerline of the nearest track and extending from there approximately a distance of 50 feet to the east per plan;
- relocating the W10-1 sign on the eastbound approach with the corresponding pavement markings (RXR) east of the Merced Avenue / Main Street intersection per plan;
- installing R8-8 signs on Main Street for eastbound traffic on both sides of the tracks per plan;
- installing W48(CA) (3 Tracks) signs on both approaches (located beneath the W10-1 signs) per plan;
- installing a W3-1 sign with a STOP AHEAD pavement legend located 450 feet west of the stop bar for the Main Street / Santa Fe Avenue intersection per plan;
- installing thermoplastic pavement striping and pavement markings (RXR) per plan.

Staff has investigated the request by the County and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the County 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 three 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 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.

Sincerely,



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

Cc:

Peter Song
Assistant Engineer
Department of Public Works
County of Stanislaus
1010 10th Street, Suite 3500
Modesto, CA 95354

John Stilley
Manager of Industry and Public Projects
BNSF Railway
740 East Carnegie Drive
San Bernardino, CA 92408

Bree Arnett, CPUC