

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 Promenade Circle, Suite 115
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834-2939



March 8, 2011

File Number: G.11-02-007

Joel Camacho
Associate Civil Engineer
City of Richmond
450 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA 94804

Re: GO 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the South 2nd Street Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 002K-1.00, DOT No. 015320U in the City of Richmond, Contra Costa County.

Dear Mr. Camacho:

This refers to your letter dated February 7, 2011 and received by us on February 8, 2011 requesting authorization pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B to alter an at-grade highway-rail crossing of the BNSF Railway (BNSF) track in the City of Richmond (City), Contra Costa County. The crossing is identified as the South 2nd Street Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 002K-1.00, DOT No. 015320U.

The South 2nd Street crossing is currently a single-track crossing on the BNSF Oakland District branch line, and is equipped with one Commission Standard 1 (crossbuck sign on a post) in the northwest quadrant and two Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assemblies with automatic gates) warning devices, one each in the northwest and southeast quadrants. BNSF operates approximately twelve freight trains per day over this crossing.

Freight traffic along this line has increased substantially in the past year due to Honda Motors using the Port of Richmond to bring new vehicles into Northern California. The City states in its GO 88-B request letter that "The alterations benefit the public by enhancing safety. The installation of constant warning time and turn restrictions onto S. 2nd Street from the closed private driveway in the northeast quadrant deters motor vehicles from trying to bypass the warning devices in order to pass through the crossing in front of an approaching locomotive." The constant warning time train detection has already been installed at the crossing.

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

- Removal of the existing Commission Standard 1 (crossbuck sign on a post) in the northwest quadrant.
- Installation of ADA compliant detectable warning tactile strips in each quadrant, along the full width of the walkway.
- Installation of one R3-2 passive "No Left Turn" sign in the northeast quadrant facing traffic exiting the private driveway.

- Reapplication of RXR, stop line and other pavement markings per plan and CA MUTCD requirements, and replacement of W10-1 CAMUTCD advance warning signage.

Staff has investigated the City's request, 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 CA MUTCD, published by Caltrans.

All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and CA MUTCD.

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. 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, 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 Felix Ko at (415) 703-3722 or fko@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

C: John Stilley
Manager of Public Projects
BNSF
740 East Carnegie Drive
San Bernardino, CA 92408