

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



March 8, 2011

File Number: G.11-02-008

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 3rd Street Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 002K-1.05, DOT No. 015321B 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 3rd Street Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 002K-1.05, DOT No. 015321B.

The South 3rd Street crossing is currently a single-track crossing on the BNSF Oakland District branch line, and was originally equipped with two Commission Standard 1 (crossbuck signs on posts), one each in the northwest and southeast quadrants. The City and BNSF installed two Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assemblies with automatic gates) warning devices with Constant Warning Time train detection without authorization from the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission). The Commission's Rail Crossing Engineering Section inspected the crossing on January 27, 2011 and found no issues with the installed warning devices. BNSF operates approximately twelve freight trains per day over this crossing.

Freight traffic 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 two CPUC Standard No. 9s (flashing light signal with automatic gates) deters and prevents motor vehicles from driving through the crossing in order to pass through the crossing in front of an approaching locomotive."

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

- Installation of Commission Standard 9 warning devices on both crossing approaches.
- Installation of passive signage associated with railroad crossings as indicated in Chapter 8 of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD).

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 Stille
Manager of Public Projects
BNSF
740 East Carnegie Drive
San Bernardino, CA 92408