

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



April 28, 2011

File Number: G.11-03-007  
East Magnolia Avenue  
Unincorporated Area Riverside County

Dowling Tsai  
Engineering Project Manager  
County of Riverside  
3525 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Riverside, CA 92501

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Modify the Eastbound Magnolia Avenue At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, identified as CPUC Crossing No. 002B-20.30 and DOT No. 026517B, in an Unincorporated Area of Riverside County.**

Dear Mr. Tsai:

This refers to your letter, dated March 23, 2011 (received March 25, 2011), requesting authorization, pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the existing Eastbound Magnolia Avenue at-grade crossing on the Mainline 2B railroad tracks owned by BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) in unincorporated area of Riverside County (County), identified as CPUC Crossing Number 002B-20.30 and DOT Number 026517B.

The Eastbound Magnolia Avenue crossing is one way roadway with two through lanes over two BNSF mainline tracks. Currently the Eastbound Magnolia Avenue at-grade crossing is equipped with one curb mounted Commission Standard 9-A (signal assembly with automatic gate arm and on a separate signal assembly an additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning device and one median mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning device. Buchanan Street is approximately 900 feet east of the crossing and is a signalized intersection. In addition to BNSF freight trains, the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) and the National Passenger Railroad Corporation (Amtrak) operate passenger trains over this line.

The County proposes to make the following alterations to the crossing:

- Remove the existing cantilevered flashing light signals on the existing separate curb mounted Commission Standard 9-A warning device and relocate the mast mounted flashing lights onto the existing automatic gate arm mechanism (creating a Commission Standard 9 warning device); and
- Install one curb mounted Queue-Cutter traffic signal with video detection system on a traffic signal mast arm, as shown per plan.

The proposed alterations are designed to minimize the likelihood of any motorists stopping on the railroad tracks due to eastbound Magnolia traffic queuing from the next signalized intersection of Buchanan Street. The modification is identified as an interim improvement until the construction of a grade-separation structure for this crossing, which is planned to commence in 2013.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request filed by the County, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As County and BNSF are in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, the improvements as described in your letter dated March 23, 2011 and summarized above are authorized.

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 (CA MUTCD), published by the California Department of Transportation.

All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and the 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 RCES may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, 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.

BNSF should also submit an updated FRA inventory form to the Federal Railroad Administration, reflecting the changes. CPUC requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to [rces@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:rces@cpuc.ca.gov).

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Lay at (213-576-1399) or [bill@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:bill@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



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

- C: Melvin Thomas, Manager of Public Projects, BNSF Railway Company  
Harry Steelman, Division Engineer, Amtrak  
Naresh Patel, Public Project Manager, SCRRA/Metrolink