

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 PROMENADE CIRCLE, SUITE 115
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834



August 3, 2011

File Number: G.11-05-008
City of Visalia, County of Tulare

Eric Bons, Senior Civil Engineer
Traffic Safety Division
City of Visalia
315 E. Acequia Avenue
Visalia, CA 93291

Re: Denial of **General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Modify the North Mooney Boulevard Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 103AC-251.70, DOT No. 752980M, in the City of Visalia, Tulare County.**

Dear Mr. Bons:

This refers to your letter dated April 20, 2011, (received on June 14, 2011), requesting authorization pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B to modify the existing North Mooney Boulevard at-grade crossing (crossing) of the San Joaquin Valley Railroad (SJVR) Goshen Subdivision tracks, in the City of Visalia (City), Tulare County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 103AC-251.70, DOT No. 752980M.

The Mooney Boulevard crossing is a two lane roadway traversing one freight track. Currently the crossing is equipped with two curb mounted Commission Standard 9-A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning devices, and advance warning pavement markings and signage. Rail America (RA) owns the right-of-way, which is currently used for freight rail service by SJVR freight trains. SJVR currently operates 3 trains daily through the crossing.

While evaluating your request, staff of the Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) determined that there are some inconsistencies between the plans, project description, and other details provided by City staff. RCES has worked informally with the City staff by telephone conversation, site visits, and electronic mail over the past few months, but there still remain a number of items to be clarified.

Therefore, RCES requires the following items be clarified by the City:

- Show pedestrian treatments at the crossing on the plans;
- Specify what signs will be installed along the trail approaches to the crossing and exact locations on the plans;

- Indicate the additional flashers on the final plan design of the crossing;
- Indicate location of recommended crosswalks on the final plan design of the crossing;
- Indicate location of adjacent bike trail on the final plan design of the crossing; and
- Indicate location of pavement markings and fencing on the final plan design of the crossing.

As such, RCES denies the City's request dated April 20, 2011 to perform modifications at the subject crossing. Once the City has finalized and clarified the issues identified above including detailed project description on Section 4 and plans, please submit a new GO 88-B request. The City can submit a new GO 88-B request reflecting the finalized crossing designs once all parties have reached agreement with your new proposal.

We support the efforts of the City to improve the subject crossings and nearby intersection and look forward to working with the City in finalizing the project proposal. RCES would be happy to review the new GO88 request prior to actual submittal. If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact Sergio Licon at (213) 576-7085 or sal@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Daren Gilbert, Manager
Rail Transit and Crossings Branch
Consumer Protection and Safety Division

C: Victor Castillo, SJVR, 221 North F Street, PO Box 937., Exeter, California 93221