

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



July 25, 2011

File Number: G.11-06-005
South Rancho Avenue Overpass
City of Colton, San Bernardino County

Freddy Cheung
Senior Manager – Industry & Public Projects
Union Pacific Railroad Company
2015 South Willow Avenue
Bloomington, CA 92316

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the South Rancho Avenue Overpass Grade-Separated Highway-Rail Crossing, identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001B-538.20-A and DOT No. 746983U, in the City of Colton, San Bernardino County.

Dear Mr. Cheung:

This refers to your letter, dated June 22, 2011 (received on June 28, 2011), requesting authorization, pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the existing grade-separated crossing of Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) Alhambra Subdivision tracks and South Rancho Avenue in the City of Colton (City), San Bernardino County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001B-538.20-A and DOT No. 746983U.

South Rancho Avenue grade-separated overpass structure is a four lane roadway that crosses over UPRR's main line 1, main line 2 and Track 112 freight tracks. The proposed alterations is required as part of the larger proposed Colton Crossing Project to grade separate the UPRR Yuma Subdivision track and connector track mile post 538.57 and two BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) San Bernardino Subdivision main line tracks at UPRR mile post 538.67 also in the City of Colton. In addition to UPRR freight trains, the National Passenger Railroad Corporation (Amtrak) operates passenger trains over the main lines.

UPRR proposes the following alterations:

- Realign UPRR's main line 1 and 2 tracks; and
- Install an additional BNSF Connector Track between UPRR's main line 2 tracks and UPRR's Track 112.

The project proposes a minimum horizontal clearance on the northerly side between the proposed UPRR main line track 1 and the northeast pier of 22.48 feet, on the southerly side between UPRR Track 112 of 17.87 feet shall remain. The South Ranch Avenue overpass structure complies with the minimum clearance requirements specified in the Commission General Order (GO) 26-D of 22 feet 6 inches, therefore this authorization does not require temporary or permanent clearance deviations.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request by UPRR, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As UPRR, BNSF, SANBAG, Caltrans, Amtrak, and City 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 request dated June 22, 2011 and summarized above are authorized.

As modification of an existing grade-separated crossing, this project is statutorily exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended. [California Public Resources Code 21080.13]

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, RCES may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, UPRR shall notify RCES that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G title *Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossings and Separation*. 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.

UPRR 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.

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Lay at 213-576-1399 or bll@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

- C: Amer Jakher, P.E., City of Colton, 650 N. La Cadena Drive, Colton, CA 92324
Melvin Thomas, BNSF Railway Company, 740 East Carnegie Drive, San Bernardino, CA 92408
Garry Cohoe, SANBAG, 1170 W. 3rd Street, 2nd Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92410
Savat Khamphou, Caltrans, 464 West 4th Street, 6th Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92410
Harry Steelman, Amtrak, 810 N. Alameda Street, 2nd Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012