

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

515 L Street, Suite 1119
Sacramento, CA 95814



August 3, 2011

File Number: G.10-07-001
City of Dinuba, Tulare County

Dean K. Uota, P.E.
City Engineer
City of Dinuba
405 E. El Monte Way
Dinuba, CA 93618

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Modify the Avenue 416 At-grade Highway-Rail Crossing, identified as CPUC Crossing No. 103BC-234.40 and DOT No. 756843U, in the City of Dinuba, Tulare County.

Dear Mr. Uota:

This refers to your letter, dated April 20, 2011 (received July 5, 2011), requesting authorization, pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the existing at-grade crossing of the San Joaquin Valley Railroad (SJVR) Exeter Subdivision railroad tracks and Avenue 416 in the City of Dinuba (City), Tulare County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 103BC-234.40 and DOT No. 756843U.

The Avenue 416 at-grade crossing is currently a divided roadway, two lanes in each direction traversing a single freight track. The crossing is equipped with three Commission Standard. 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices, one Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) warning device, and a raised median on the both approaches over the crossing. Euclid Avenue runs parallel to the tracks, ending at a 'T' intersection at Avenue 416 and is unsignalized intersection adjacent to, and east of the crossing. SJVR and Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) operate freight rail service over the crossing.

The City proposes the following alterations:

- Widen Avenue 416 between Road 56 and Road 80 to accommodate:
 - four 12-foot lanes
 - one 12-foot eastbound left turn pocket;
 - a raised median island that varies in width from a minimum of 2 feet, from the driveway west of the crossing to just before the crossing; and will extend approximately nine feet past the crossing east, so as not to block the intersection. On the westbound approach, the median will extend in varying width to the intersection of Arkona Avenue;
 - a 4-foot westbound shoulder; and
 - a 8-foot eastbound shoulder;
- Install one median mounted and one curb mounted Commission Standard 9 warning device for the eastbound vehicular approach, with 12" LED flashing lights, at the southwest quadrant of the crossing;

- Install one median mounted and one curb mounted Commission Standard 9 warning device for the westbound vehicular approach, with 12” LED flashing lights, at the northeast quadrant of the crossing;
- Remove existing rail track and install 136 pound rail track;
- Install a traffic signal at the intersection of Avenue 416 and Euclid Avenue and interconnect with the railroad warning devices to provide advance preemption;
- Install a pre-signal on Avenue 416 for eastbound traffic along with MUTCD compliant R10-6 ‘STOP HERE ON RED’ and R8-8 ‘DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS’ signage, and ‘WAIT HERE’, ‘KEEP CLEAR’ and crossing hatching pavement markings, per plan;
- Install a Preemption Interconnect System to provide interconnection with traffic signal system to monitor crossing operation and safety;
- Install an Advanced Preemption System at the crossing and upgrade track circuitry to support it;
- Install Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complaint sidewalks on both sides of the crossing;
- Install two Commission Standard 8 warning devices with two sets of flashers, one for each off quadrant pedestrian approaches;
- Install concrete panel crossing surface for the one track;
- Install tubular railing along the crossing approaches to prevent trespassing for pedestrian channelization, as shown in plans;
- Install ADA compliant detectable warning tactile strips on all sidewalk approaches. Placement: a minimum of 36 inches in the direction of travel over the full width of the sidewalk, 2 feet in front of the warning device (where present), but no closer than 15 feet from the centerline of the tracks;
- Install MUTCD compliant R8-8 ‘DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS’ signage and ‘WAIT HERE’ and crossing hatching pavement markings for westbound traffic; and
- Application of MUTCD compliant pavement markings and signage, including W10-12 ‘SKEWED CROSSING,’ W10-1 and W10-2 advance warning signs and RxR pavement markings.

The Commission’s Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request filed by the City of Dinuba, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As SJVR, the City and UPRR 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 April 20, 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 Pubic Resources Code 21084].

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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, the SJVR 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.

SJVR 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 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

Victor Castillo, Roadmaster, SJVR
C: Freddy Cheung, Senior Manager, UPRR
Randy Perry, General Manager, SJVR