

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 Promenade Circle, Suite 115
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September 27, 2011

File Number: G.11-08-005
West 7th Street
City of Perris, Riverside County

Edda Rosso, P.E.
Capital Projects Manager
Riverside County Transportation Commission
4080 Lemon Street, 3rd Floor
Riverside, CA 92502

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the West 7th Street At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, identified as CPUC Crossing No. 002X-19.10 and DOT No. 027343K, in the City of Perris, Riverside County.

Dear Ms. Rosso:

This refers to your letter, dated August 1, 2011 (received on August 11, 2011), requesting authorization, pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the existing West 7th Street at-grade crossing over two tracks; the San Jacinto Subdivision railroad tracks owned by Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) and operated by BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) and the other the Orange Empire Railway Museum (OERY) tracks in the City of Perris (City), Riverside County. The crossing is currently identified as CPUC Crossing No. 002X-19.10 and DOT No. 027343K.

The double track crossing is currently a divided roadway, two lanes, one lane in each direction over two branch line tracks. The West 7th Street at-grade crossing is equipped with two curb mounted Commission Standard 1-R (crossbuck sign on a post) warning devices. BNSF operates approximately two freight trains at 15 mph on the RCTC tracks, and OERY runs trains on their tracks at 10 mph over the crossing. The crossing improvement project is part of the proposed Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) Perris Valley Line (PVL) Metrolink commuter extension project from the current terminus in the City of Riverside to the City of Perris.

RCTC proposes the following modifications to the two track crossing, as part of the PVL Metrolink project to meet SCRRA standards, as SCRRA will be the service operator:

- Remove the existing BNSF track and install a new PVL track approximately 7-feet east from the center line of the crossing;
- Reconstruct the OERY track which is located approximately 38-feet west of the new PVL track to match the elevation of the new PVL track;
- Adjust the approach grade on West 7th Street by increasing ground clearance to achieve SCRRA approach grade requirements and to reduce the potential of low clearance vehicles scraping at the crossing;
- Remove the existing two Commission Standard 1-R warning devices;

- Install one curb mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning device with 12-inch LED flashing lights for eastbound West 7th Street, at the southwest quadrant of the crossing;
- Install one curb mounted Commission Standard 9 warning device with 12-inch LED flashing lights for westbound West 7th Street, at the northeast quadrant of the crossing;
- Construct pedestrian pathways on the north and south side of the crossing;
- Install Commission Standard 9 pedestrian gate warning devices in combination with swing gates for all pedestrian sidewalk approaches to the crossing;
- Install Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant detectable warning tactile strips on all sidewalk approaches to the crossing;
- Install fencing along the right of way and hand railing for along the pedestrian crossing approaches to prevent trespassing, as shown in plans;
- Construct an 8-inch in height, 2-feet in width and 94-feet in length raised center median for eastbound vehicular approach to the crossing;
- Construct an 8-inch in height, 2-feet in width and 94-feet in length raised center median for westbound vehicular approach to the crossing;
- Install concrete crossing panels surfacing for the two branch line tracks;
- Install illumination on northeast and southwest quadrants, as shown in plans; and
- Application of MUTCD compliant signage and pavement markings, including W10-1 advance warning signs, W48(CA) '2 TRACKS' signage, R8-8 'DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS' signage, R3-5R 'RIGHT TURN ONLY' signage, R3-2 'NO LEFT TURN' signage, R26(CA) 'NO PARKING ANYTIME' signage, R106(CA) 'LOOK BOTH WAY' signage and 'KEEP CLEAR' and RxR pavement markings as shown in plans.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request by RCTC and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As RCTC, City, BNSF, OERY and SCRRA 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 August 1, 2011 and summarized above are authorized.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with 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 CA MUTCD.

This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental 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, RCES may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

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Within 30 days after completion of this project, RCTC 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.

RCTC should 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 bill@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

- C: Melvin Thomas, BNSF Railway Company, 740 East Carnegie Drive, San Bernardino, CA 92408
Naresh Patel, P.E., SCRRA, 279 E. Arrow Highway, Suite A, San Dimas, CA 91773
Habib Motlagh, City of Perris, 101 N. D Street, Perris, CA 92570
Thomas N. Jacobson, OERY, 2201 South A Street, Perris, CA 92570