

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 PROMENADE CIRCLE, SUITE 115
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834



September 27, 2011

File Number: G.11-08-009

Maria Toles
District Railroad Coordinator
California Department of Transportation
855 M Street, Suite 200
Fresno, CA 937212

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter SR 99 Overpass (Turner Station Overhead) Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 075-4.50-A, DOT No. 865107S in the County of San Joaquin

Dear Ms. Toles:

This refers to your letter dated August 12, 2011 and received by us on August 15, 2011 requesting authorization, pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the grade separated crossing of SR 99 Overpass (Turner Station Overhead) in the County of San Joaquin (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 075-4.50-A, DOT No. 865107S.

At this location, SR 99 is a grade separated, four lane structure over the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) McHenry Lead track. Rail service at this crossing is approximately 2 trains per day at a maximum speed of 10 mph.

The proposed alteration as indicated in the request letter and/or shown in the attachments shall consist of:

- Expanding State Route 99 (SR99) from the existing four-lane highway to six lanes by widening within the median along 9.9 miles of the highway extending from the Austin road interchange in the City of Manteca to Arch Road in the City of Stockton.

Caltrans states in its GO88-B request letter that "The SR 99 widening project will benefit the public by reducing congestion and associated vehicle emissions by increasing the capacity of a major portion of the State highway system. The installation of roadway traffic signals and pre-emption, as a related element of the project, will increase public safety by allowing motorists to more efficiently clear the tracks as trains approach and reduce highway vehicle conflicts at the intersections."

During construction, Caltrans is requesting a temporary impaired vertical clearance of 21 feet. Commission General Order (GO) 26-D, Section 2.1, requires a minimum vertical clearance of 22 feet 6 inches. Caltrans requests a temporary deviation from the vertical clearance requirements of GO 26-D. The Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) of the Commission's Consumer Protection and Safety Division contacted UPRR regarding the temporary deviation, and in a letter

dated September 6, 2011, their representative indicated that the proposed temporary vertical clearance of 21 feet meets Union Pacific's guidelines and is acceptable.. The minimum permanent vertical clearance above top of rail will be 24 feet 4 inches.

Staff has investigated the Caltrans request, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the UPRR, the County and Caltrans are in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, you may proceed with the improvements as described in your request letter and attachments, and summarized above.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with section 8A.05, Temporary Traffic Control Zones, of the 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 Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended [California Public Resources Code 21084].

Pursuant to Commission Resolution SX-76 and Section 16.2 of General Order (GO) 26-D, the Caltrans is granted a temporary deviation from GO 26-D, Section 2.1 and is authorized a temporary overhead clearance of not less than 21 feet above the top of the highest rail to the lowest of point on the overhead structure, during the period of construction of the SR 99 structure, CPUC Crossing No. 075-4.50-A, DOT No. 865107S in the County of San Joaquin.

Because the clearance still meets the railroad standard, no special conditions are placed upon the railroad as it pertains to the temporary deviation to GO 26-D, Section 2.1.

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 Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, the Caltrans 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/static/transportation/crossings/formg.htm> This report may be submitted electronically to rces@cpuc.ca.gov as outlined on the web page.

Upon completion of the project UPRR should submit an updated FRA inventory form to the Federal Railroad Administration. CPUC requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to rces@cpuc.ca.gov.

Maria Toles
G.11-08-009
September 27, 2011
Page 3 of 3

If you have any questions, please contact David Stewart at (916) 928-2515 or atm@cpuc.ca.gov .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daren Gilbert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "D".

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

C: Jim Smith , UPRR
Michael Selling, County of San Joaquin