

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



September 28, 2011

File Number: G.11-09-001

Steven Tam
Senior Civil Engineer
City of Richmond
450 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA 94804

Re: GO 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Wharf Street Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 002-1191.10-C, DOT No. 029896N in the City of Richmond, Contra Costa County.

Dear Mr. Tam:

This refers to your letter dated September 1, 2011 and received by us on September 6, 2011 requesting authorization pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B to alter an at-grade highway-rail crossing of the BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) track in the City of Richmond (City), Contra Costa County. The crossing is identified as the Wharf Street Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 002-1191.10-C, DOT No. 029896N.

The Wharf Street crossing is currently a double-track crossing on a BNSF branch track, and is equipped with two Commission Standard 1-R (crossbuck signs on posts) warning devices in the northeast and southwest quadrants. BNSF operates approximately ten freight trains per day over this crossing.

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

- Replacement of the existing Commission Standard 1-R warning devices with two Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assemblies with automatic gates) warning devices. Additional flashing light pairs shall be installed on the Commission Standard 9 in the southwest quadrant facing northbound and southbound Canal Boulevard traffic.
- Installation of two median mounted Commission Standard 9 warning devices; one per approach.
- Installation of two raised concrete medians to install the median mounted Commission Standard 9 warning devices, per plan.
- Installation of "Keep Clear" pavement markings within the intersection of Wharf Street and Canal Boulevard.
- Relocation of the stop line for eastbound Wharf Street traffic to prior to the automatic warning devices.
- Installation of passive signage and pavement markings associated with railroad crossings as indicated in Chapter 8 of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD).

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City states in its GO88-B request letter that "The alteration benefit the public by enhancing safety. Installation of medians will direct vehicles around new BNSF gates when open."

Staff has investigated the City's request, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City and BNSF 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 Caltrans.

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 Pubic 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, 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 City 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.

At the conclusion of the project BNSF 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 Felix Ko at (415) 703-3722 or fko@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

C: Melissa Tigbao, City of Richmond
John Stilley, BNSF Manager Public Projects