

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 PROMENADE CIRCLE, SUITE 115
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834



December 22, 2011

File Number: G.11-10-003

Maria Toles
District Railroad Coordinator
California Department of Transportation
855 M Street, Suite 200
Fresno, CA 93721

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter E. Frontage Road Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 075-4.60, DOT No. 865106K in the County of San Joaquin

Dear Ms. Toles:

This refers to your letter dated October 24, 2011 and received by us on October 25, 2011 requesting authorization, pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the at-grade highway-rail crossing of E. Frontage Road in the County of San Joaquin (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 075-4.60, DOT No. 865106K.

The crossing is currently a single track crossing equipped with two Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices. At this location, E. Frontage Road is a two-lane road running north/south. Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) operates over this crossing. 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:

- Rebuilding and signalizing the intersection of French Camp Road and E. Frontage Road ;
- Traffic signals shall be connected with and preempted by the railroad crossing warning devices at the intersection of French Camp Road, the SR 99 northbound access ramps and the E. Frontage Road, as per plan,
- Railroad pre-emption shall be 10 seconds advanced pre-emption with UPRR's warning devices;
- Installation of the new advance warning signs, MUTCD W10-1 on E. Frontage Road,
- Installation of the new advance warning signs, MUTCD W10-2 on French Camp Road,
- Installation of the activated blank out sign, MUTCD R3-1 indicating No Right Turn activated by train approach at the intersection.

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 will increase public safety by allowing motorists to more efficiently clear the tracks as trains approach and reduce highway vehicle conflicts at the intersections."

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 statutorily exempt from the requirements of the California Environment 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, 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.

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

Sincerely,



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

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