

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



February 13, 2012

File Number: G.12-01-008
Sunset Avenue
City of Banning, Riverside County

Duane Burk
Project Manager
City of Banning
99 E. Ramsey Street
Banning, CA 92220

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Sunset Avenue At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001B-566.20 and DOT No. 760690A, in the City of Banning, Riverside County.

This refers to your letter, dated December 14, 2011 (received January 17, 2012) requesting authorization, pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the existing at-grade crossing of Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) Yuma Subdivision tracks at Sunset Avenue in the City of Banning (City), Riverside County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001B-566.20 and DOT Number 760690A.

Sunset Avenue is a north-south arterial, divided roadway with four lanes, two in each direction over two UPRR main line tracks. Currently the crossing is equipped with two curb mounted Commission Standard 9-A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning devices, advance warning pavement markings and signage. Interstate 10 eastbound off and on ramps currently intersect with Sunset Avenue approximately 160-feet north of the crossing. In addition to UPRR freight trains, the National Passenger Railroad Corporation (Amtrak) operates passenger trains on this line.

City proposes the following alterations to the Sunset Avenue crossing:

- Construct a grade-separated underpass bridge structure with a minimum vertical clearance of 16.5 feet;
- Improve the railroad profile approximately 1000-feet east and west of the crossing approaching the new railroad bridge structure; and
- Reconstruct the existing Interstate 10 eastbound off and on ramps to accommodate the change in elevation north of the crossing.

During construction, Sunset Avenue will be closed to all vehicular and pedestrian traffic and the existing at-grade crossing will be removed including all railroad warning devices. As part of the

project, City requires construction of a temporary shoofly adjacent to and south of the existing track for the two UPRR main line tracks. Railroad traffic will be shifted to the shoofly track while the existing track is removed and the elevated railroad bridge structure is constructed in stages. The temporary shoofly track will then be removed upon completion of the grade separated track structure and the main tracks are installed over the bridge.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request by the City, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City, Caltrans 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 request dated December 14, 2011 and summarized above are authorized.

The following requirements pertain to this authorization:

- The new CPUC Crossing Number for the completed grade separation structure will be 001B-566.20-B and DOT No. 440707T, and
- The City shall block access at the former at-grade crossing to all vehicular and pedestrian traffic during construction, and the public shall be appropriately directed to nearby existing authorized crossing locations.

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 statutorily exempt from the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended. [California Public Resources Code 21080.13]

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 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, UPRR should also submit an updated FRA inventory form to the Federal Railroad Administration, reflecting the closure of the at-grade crossing and retirement of that DOT number, and the construction of the grade separation and assignment of the new DOT

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number of 440707T. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daren Gilbert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

C: Ken Tom, UPRR, 19100 Slover Avenue, Bloomington, CA 92316
Emad Makar, Caltrans, 464 W. Fourth Street, MS 1229, San Bernardino, CA 92401
Harry Steelman, Amtrak, 810 N. Alameda Street, 3rd Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012