

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 PROMENADE CIRCLE, SUITE 115
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834-2939



March 30, 2012

File Number: G.12-02-004

John Stilley
Manager of Public Projects
BNSF Railway Company
740 East Carnegie Drive
San Bernardino, CA 92408

Re: GO 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Vintage Parkway Highway-Rail Overpass Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 002-1146.40-A, DOT No. 027497V in the City of Oakley, Contra Costa County.

Dear Mr. Stilley:

This refers to your letter dated January 24, 2012 and received by us on February 10, 2012 requesting authorization pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B to alter a grade separated highway-rail crossing of the BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) track in the City of Oakley (City), Contra Costa County. The crossing is identified as the Vintage Parkway Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 002-1146.40-A, DOT No. 027497V.

The Vintage Parkway crossing is currently a single-track grade-separated crossing on the BNSF mainline, with the roadway passing over the tracks. BNSF operates approximately eighteen freight trains per day over this crossing. Amtrak operates eight passenger trains per day at the crossing.

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

- Installation of an additional grade-separated track adjacent to the existing track beneath the roadway overpass structure. The new track will be located north of the existing track with a minimum horizontal clearance of 15 feet between the track centerlines.
- Installation of crash walls north of the new track. The crash walls will have a minimum horizontal clearance of 19 feet 2 inches to the centerline of the track.

BNSF states in its GO88-B request letter that "The public and the railroad will benefit from the modifications/enhancements by the provision of more flexibility and efficiency in train operations."

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

John Stilley
G.12-02-004
March 30, 2012
Page 2 of 3

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 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, 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, BNSF 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,

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

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

John Stilley
G.12-02-004
March 30, 2012
Page 3 of 3

C: Jason Vogan, PE
Director of Public Works/City Engineer
City of Oakley
3231 Main Street
Oakley, CA 94561

John M. Fleming
Manager of Engineering
BNSF Railway Company
1776 West March Lane
Stockton, CA 95207

Royce K. Gotcher, Chief
Track & Signal Construction
Caltrans Division of Rail
1120 N. Street, MS 74
Sacramento, CA 95814

Harry C. Steelman
Division Engineer – West
Amtrak Engineering
810 N. Alameda Street, 3rd Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Alfred Yalda, PE
J.L. Patterson & Associates
725 Town & Country Road, Suite 300
Orange, CA 92868