

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 PROMENADE CIRCLE, SUITE 115  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834



March 15, 2012

File Number: G.12-02-012  
Tulare Avenue  
City of Visalia, County of Tulare

Chris Crawford  
Civil Engineer  
City of Visalia  
315 E. Acequia Avenue  
Visalia, CA 93291

Re: **General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Modify the Tulare Avenue Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 103AC-254.40, DOT No. 750671T in the City of Visalia, Tulare County.**

Dear Mr. Crawford:

This refers to your letter, dated February 22, 2012 (received February 23, 2012), requesting authorization, pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the existing at-grade crossing of the San Joaquin Railroad (SJVR) Goshen Subdivision tracks and Tulare Avenue in the City of Visalia (City), Tulare County. The crossing is identified by CPUC Crossing No. 103AC-254.40, DOT No. 750671T.

Tulare Avenue is a two lane roadway over one SJVR spur track. The crossing is currently 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, pavement markings and advanced warning signage. SJVR and Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) operate 6 freight trains a week over this line at no more than ten miles per hour. An Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) count of 8,200 occurs at the crossing.

As part of the City's Federal Safe-Routes-To-School (SRTS) grant to complete a pedestrian path adjacent to Tulare Avenue and across the crossing, the City proposes pedestrian safety enhancements to the north side of the crossing. No modifications are proposed to the vehicular roadway as part of this project.

City proposes to make the following modifications to the crossing:

- Install Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant pedestrian sidewalk on the north side of the crossing;
- Install concrete panel crossing surface for the pedestrian pathway on the north side of the crossing;

- Install four feet high fencing along pathway to channel pathway users along the crossing approaches to prevent trespassing, as shown on plans;
- Install ADA compliant detectable warning tactile strips for both approaches to the crossing on the north side of the roadway;
- Install a “WALK YOUR BIKE ACROSS TRACKS” sign and a R15-8 “LOOK” sign at both north side crossing approaches; and
- Application of MUTCD compliant pavement markings and signage, including W10-1 advance warning signs and RXR pavement markings.

The Commission’s Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request filed by the City and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City, UPRR and SJVR 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 February 22, 2012 and summarized above are authorized.

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, 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](mailto:rces@cpuc.ca.gov) as outlined on the web page.

If you have any questions, please contact Sergio Licon at (213) 576-7085 or [sal@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:sal@cpuc.ca.gov) .

Sincerely,



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

C: James H. Smith, UPRR  
Marc Bader, SJVR