

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 PROMENADE CIRCLE, SUITE 115
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834



February 29, 2012

File Number: G.12-02-015

Maria Toles
District Railroad Coordinator
California Department of Transportation
855 M Street, Suite 200
Fresno, CA 937212

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter SR 99 Underpass (East Stockton Underpass) Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 002-1118.20-B, DOT No. 029579J in the City of Stockton, County of San Joaquin

Dear Ms. Toles:

This refers to your letter dated February 24, 2012 and received by us on February 24, 2012 requesting authorization, pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the grade separated crossing of SR 99 (East Stockton Underpass) in the City of Stockton (City), San Joaquin County (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 002-1118.20-B, DOT No. 029579J.

At this location, SR 99 is a four lane road running north/south under two BNSF Railroad (BNSF) tracks. Rail service at this crossing is approximately 33 trains per day, mixed freight and passenger at a maximum speed of 79 mph.

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

- Expanding the highway from four to six lanes by widening within the median.
- Rebuild the rail structure to carry the existing two sets of railroad tracks and provide for a future track.
- The minimum vertical clearance over State Route 99 shall be 16' 6".

During the replacement of the East Stockton Underpass, continuous railroad traffic will be maintained by utilizing the newly constructed Golden Gate Ave Overcrossing as a shoofly. The shoofly will carry both sets of existing railroad tracks. The horizontal alignment and track profile have been designed to accommodate the required 79 mile per hour train speed.

Caltrans states in its GO88-B request letter that "This project will relieve traffic congestion, improve traffic safety conditions and increase capacity by adding lanes in the median on Route 99 and constructing a new interchange linking Route 99 to Route 4."

Staff has investigated the Caltrans request, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the BNSF, the City, 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 categorically 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, 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 BNSF 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: John Stilley, BNSF
Michael Selling, County of San Joaquin
Alex Menor, City of Stockton