

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



April 5, 2012

File Number: G.12-03-005

I-215 Underpass

Unincorporated Area of San Bernardino County

Garry Cohoe  
Director of Project Delivery  
San Bernardino Associated Governments  
1170 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92410

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Grade-Separated Crossing of BNSF Railway Company's Mainline 2B Subdivision Tracks and Interstate 215, CPUC Crossing Number 002B-5.90-B and DOT Number 026469N, in Unincorporated Area of San Bernardino County**

Dear Mr. Cohoe:

This refers to your letter, dated March 1, 2012 (received on March 2, 2012), requesting authorization, pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the existing grade separated crossing of BNSF Railway Company's (BNSF) mainline 2B Subdivision tracks and Interstate 215 (I-215) in Unincorporated Area of San Bernardino County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 002B-5.90-B and DOT No. 026469N.

I-215 grade-separated underpass is a six lane interstate roadway with center medians that crosses under two BNSF main line tracks. In addition to BNSF operating freight trains, Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) operates freight trains and the National Passenger Railroad Company (Amtrak) and Southern California Regional Railroad Authority (SCRRA) operate passenger trains over this line. There are approximately 82 freight trains per day and approximately 10 passenger trains per day over the main line.

San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) in cooperation with California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), as part of the I-215 widening project adding approximately 7.5 miles of High Occupancy Vehicle lanes in each direction and median barrier replacement, proposes the following alterations:

- Remove the existing double track railroad bridge structure; and
- Construct three new permanent single track railroad bridge structures.

During construction, SANBAG and Caltrans propose to construct a temporary shoofly railroad bridge structure for the two BNSF main line tracks to the east of the existing bridge. Railroad traffic will be shifted to the shoofly track while the existing track is removed and the elevated railroad bridge structures are constructed in stages. The temporary shoofly track will then be removed upon completion of the grade separated track structures and the main tracks are installed

over the bridge. The project proposes the following vertical and horizontal clearances for all railroad bridge structures:

- Temporary shoofly bridge structure will have a minimum vertical clearance of 16-feet 0-inches and minimum horizontal clearance of 10-feet 9-inches;
- BNSF mainline 1 railroad bridge structure will have a minimum vertical clearance of 16-feet 6-inches and minimum horizontal clearance of 10-feet 6-inches;
- BNSF mainline 2 railroad bridge structure will have a minimum vertical clearance of 16-feet 6-inches and minimum horizontal clearance of 10-feet 6-inches; and
- BNSF mainline 3 railroad bridge structure will have a minimum vertical clearance of 16-feet 6-inches and minimum horizontal clearance of 10-feet 6-inches.

The proposed I-215 railroad bridge structures comply with the minimum clearance requirements specified in the Commission General Order (GO) 26-D, therefore this authorization does not require temporary or permanent clearance deviations.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request by SANBAG, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As SANBAG, Caltrans and BNSF 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 March 1, 2012 and summarized above are authorized.

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.

As modification of an existing grade-separated crossing, this project is statutorily exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental 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, SANBAG and/or BNSF shall notify RCES that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G title *Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossings and Separation*. 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.

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At the conclusion of the project, BNSF should also 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](mailto:rces@cpuc.ca.gov).

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Lay at 213-576-1399 or [bl@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:bl@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daren Gilbert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "G".

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

- C: Melvin Thomas, BNSF Railway Company, 740 East Carnegie Drive, San Bernardino, CA 92408  
Harry Steelman, Amtrak, 810 N. Alameda Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Naresh Patel, SCRRA / Metrolink, 279 E. Arrow Highway, Suite A, San Dimas, CA 91773  
Freddy Cheung, UPRR, 19100 Slover Avenue, Bloomington, CA 92316