

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 Promenade Circle, Suite 115  
Sacramento, CA 95834



April 18, 2012

Maria Toles  
District Railroad Coordinator  
California Department of Transportation  
855 M Street  
Fresno, CA 93721

File No. G.12-03-009

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter Avenue 12 Overhead Highway–Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No.: 001B- 187.20-A, DOT No. 760970C, in the County of Madera.**

Dear Ms. Toles:

This refers to your letter dated March 14, 2012, and received by us on March 19, 2012, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Avenue 12 Overhead grade-separated highway-rail crossing of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) track in the County of Madera (County). The crossing is identified as Avenue 12 Overhead, CPUC Crossing No. 001B-187.20-A, DOT No.760970C.

The existing crossing is a grade-separation consisting of a single bridge with two through lanes and one left turn lane carrying Avenue 12 traffic over a single mainline track of the UPRR. The Avenue 12 Overhead is just east of State Route (SR) 99. This project proposes to replace the existing overhead structure with a single new bridge with six through lanes and appropriate turn lanes in generally the same location as the existing structure. In its GO 88-B request, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) states “The proposed Avenue 12 structure will relieve interchange congestion, improve traffic flow, reduce travel time, and increase motorist safety”. This project is part of a larger Caltrans project to make improvements to the existing SR 99/Avenue 12 interchange and the surrounding local road network.

The proposed alteration, as indicated in the request letter and/or shown on the plans, shall consist of replacing the existing Avenue 12 Overhead structure with a single new bridge, Caltrans number, 41C0207. The minimum permanent vertical clearance shall be 24’-8”. The new bridge structure shall meet the vertical and horizontal clearance requirements of the Commission’s GO 26-D.

Caltrans has submitted environmental documentation to Commission’s Rail Crossing Engineering staff (Staff) that indicates this project, under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), is a Categorical Exclusion under Section 6005 of 23 U.S.C. 327.

Staff has investigated the request by Caltrans, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As Caltrans, the County, and UPRR (Parties) 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.

Caltrans indicates in its GO 88-B request that “Temporary traffic controls that will be in place will include temporary changeable message signs, temporary signals, construction area signs, and striping along with temporary concrete K-rail barriers to separate the work zone from traffic”.

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 other Commission General Orders and the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

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. A written request for a time extension must include concurrence letters by interested Parties in support of the time extension. If an extension is requested, Staff may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, Caltrans shall notify RCES that the authorized work is completed by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G *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.

At the conclusion of the project UPRR 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](mailto:rces@cpuc.ca.gov)

If you have any questions, please contact Marvin Kennix at (916) 928-3809 or email at [mlk@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:mlk@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



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

Cc: Jim Smith, Manager of Industry & Public Projects, Union Pacific Railroad  
Johannes Hoevertsz, Road Commissioner, Madera County