

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 PROMENADE CIRCLE, SUITE 115  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834



July 9, 2012

File Number: G.12-05-012  
Unincorporated, County of Tulare

Ted Smalley  
Executive Director  
Tulare County Association of Governments  
210 North Church Street, Suite B  
Visalia, CA 93291

Re: **General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Modify the Avenue 272 Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 103V-22.10, DOT No. 028858B in unincorporated Tulare County.**

Dear Mr. Smalley:

This refers to your letter, dated May 8, 2012 (received May 11, 2012), requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the existing at-grade crossing of the San Joaquin Valley Railroad (SJVR) Loma Spur and Avenue 272 in unincorporated Tulare County. The crossing is identified by CPUC Crossing No. 103V-22.10 and DOT No. 028858B.

Avenue 272 is a two lane roadway, one lane in each direction that crosses over one SJVR spur track. The crossing is currently equipped with two Commission Standard 1-R (crossbuck sign on a post) warning devices, pavement markings and advanced warning signage. Santa Fe Avenue runs parallel to the tracks, ending at the T-intersection adjacent to and east of the crossing. SJVR operates 2 freight trains a week over this line. The average annual daily traffic count at this crossing is 2,607 vehicles per day.

The Tulare County Association of Governments (County) proposes to make the following modifications to the crossing:

- Construct bike/pedestrian pathway over the tracks, adjacent to the roadway on the south side of the crossing;
- Remove the existing shoulder posted Commission Standard 1-R warning devices;
- Install a new curb mounted Commission 1-R warning device with R1-2 "YIELD" and R15-8 "LOOK" signs on curb mounted posts for westbound vehicular traffic on the northeast quadrant of the crossing;

- Install a new curb mounted Commission 1-R warning device with R1-1 “STOP” and R15-8 “LOOK” sign on curb mounted posts for eastbound vehicular traffic on the southwest quadrant of the crossing;
- Install a 5-foot wide grouted cobble between adjacent bike/pedestrian pathway and roadway to channel pathway users along the crossing approaches to prevent trespassing, as shown on plans;
- Install one Commission Standard 1-D (PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE ONLY sign on a post) for the eastbound pathway approach in the southwest quadrant of the crossing;
- Install one Commission Standard 1-D for the westbound pathway approach in the southeast quadrant of the crossing;
- Install pedestrian “zig zag” channelization for adjacent bike/pedestrian pathway on both approaches to crossing, designed such that the pathway user faces each direction along the tracks while approaching the crossing;
- Install fencing along the right of way and pathway to channel pathway users along the crossing approaches to prevent trespassing, as shown on plans;
- Install Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant detectable warning tactile strips for both approaches to the crossing, on south pathway;
- Install a “WALK YOUR BIKE ACROSS TRACKS” sign and a R1-1 “STOP” sign at both south side crossing approaches; and
- Install California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD) compliant signage, and pavement markings per plans, including R8-8 “DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS”, R1-1 “STOP”, W10-1 and W10-4 advanced warning, and W3-1 “STOP AHEAD” signs, and “KEEP CLEAR” and RXR pavement markings.

The Commission’s Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request filed by the County and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the County and SJ VR are both 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 letter dated May 8, 2012 and summarized above are authorized.

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 RCES, 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 County 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.

At the conclusion of the project, SJVR 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 Sergio Licon at (213) 576-7085 or [sal@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:sal@cpuc.ca.gov) .

Sincerely,

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

Daren Gilbert, Supervisor  
Rail Crossings Engineering Section  
Consumer Protection and Safety Division

C: Victor Castillo, SJVR  
Marc Bader, SJVR  
Christine Chavez, Tulare County Association of Governments