

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 Promenade Circle, Suite 115  
Sacramento, CA 95834



July 26, 2012

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

File No. G.12-06-017

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Highway–Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 103BD- 254.10 and DOT No. 750827P, in the City of Hanford, County of Kings.**

Dear Ms. Toles:

This refers to your letter dated June 21, 2012, received by us on June 25, 2012, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue highway-rail crossing of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) track, leased to the San Joaquin Valley Railroad (SJVR), in the City of Hanford (City), County of Kings. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 103BD-254.10 and DOT No.750827P.

12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, running north-south, is a principal arterial roadway at the crossing. The crossing is just north of the State Route (SR) 198/12<sup>th</sup> Avenue interchange and thus sees heavy vehicle traffic. Currently the crossing is the location of a bottleneck on 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue between commercial development to the north and SR 198 to the south. The 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue crossing has a single track aligned approximately in a east-west direction that is frequented by SJVR freight trains. UPRR is owner of the track, but does not currently operate trains on this rail line. There are sidewalks (in front of the warning devices) and medians at the crossing. The crossing is equipped with a 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 device on the shoulder of the roadway on both sides of the crossing, and a Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning device on the median on both sides of the crossing.

In its GO 88-B request, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) states “The widened 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and railroad crossing will provide increased operational capacity and enhance the safety for the traveling motorists and pedestrians along 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and at the SR 198/12<sup>th</sup> Avenue interchange”.

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

- Widening the roadway across the crossing from four lanes to six lanes per plan;
- installing a new 16-foot wide (at its widest point) raised median on both sides of the crossing per plan;

- installing a Commission Standard 9-A warning device on the shoulder of the roadway on both sides of the widened crossing per plan;
- installing a Commission Standard 9 warning device on the new 16-foot wide raised median on both sides of the crossing per plan;
- replacing the existing sidewalk on both sides of the roadway with a new 8-foot wide sidewalk situated behind the warning device on both sides of the roadway per plan;
- extending or replacing the existing concrete panel surfaces in order to accommodate the new sidewalks per plan;
- installing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standard detectable warning (tactile strip) surfaces on the sidewalk approaches at the crossing locations: 1 foot in advance of the warning devices, and at a minimum of 12 feet from the nearest rail on the other side of the crossing directly opposite the warning devices as described in the GO 88-B request;
- installing pavement markings (RXR) and striping per plan.

The Commission's Rail Crossing Engineering Section (RCES) staff has investigated the request by Caltrans, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As Caltrans, UPRR, and SJVR (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.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with section 8A.05, Temporary Traffic Control Zones, of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD), published by the California Department of Transportation.

All Parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including other Commission General Orders, and the CAMUTCD.

This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended [California Public 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. 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, SJVR should submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form to the FRA, 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,

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

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

Cc: Jim Smith, Manager of Industry & Public Projects, Union Pacific Railroad  
Marc Bader, Director of Line Maintenance - West Region, SJVR/ RailAmerica, Inc.