

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



August 7, 2012

File Number: G.12-07-006
Poarch Road
Unincorporated Area, Riverside County

Edda Rosso
Capital Projects Manager
Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC)
4080 Lemon Street, 3rd Floor
Riverside, CA 92502-2208

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Modify the Gernert Road/Poarch Road Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 002X-5.20 and DOT No. 027311E, in Unincorporated Area of Riverside County.

Dear Ms. Rosso:

This refers to your letter, dated July 10, 2012 received by us on July 16, 2012, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the existing Gernert Road/Poarch Road at-grade crossing on the San Jacinto Subdivision railroad tracks owned by Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) and operated by BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) in the City of Riverside (City), Riverside County, identified as CPUC Crossing Number 002X-5.20 and DOT Number 027311E.

The Gernert Road/Poarch Road single track at-grade crossing is currently a divided roadway with two lanes, one lane in each direction. The crossing is equipped with two shoulder posted Commission Standard 1-R (crossbuck sign on a post) warning devices. Watkins Drive runs parallel to tracks and is the uncontrolled intersection west of the crossing. This line currently experiences approximately two BNSF trains per day at 15 mph, and is part of the proposed Perris Valley Line (PVL) Metrolink project.

RCTC proposes the following alterations to the crossing as part of the PVL Metrolink project to meet Metrolink standards, as Metrolink will be the service operator:

- Remove the existing two shoulder posted Commission Standard 1-R warning devices;
- Construct curb and gutter through the Poarch Road crossing, as shown on plans;
- Install one new curb mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning device for eastbound Poarch Road, on the southeast quadrant of the crossing;
- Install one new curb mounted Commission Standard 9 warning device for westbound Poarch Road, on the northwest quadrant of the crossing;

- Install wire mesh fencing along the railroad right of way and swinging security access gates that will be closed and locked manually on both sides of the crossing;
- Install new pavement roadway across for the Poarch Road crossing and construct approximately 8-foot paving outside RCTC right of way to join the existing Watkins Drive, south of the crossing, as shown on plans;
- Install concrete crossing panel surface for the track;
- Install illumination on the northwest and southeast quadrant, as shown on plans; and
- Apply California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, including R8-8 'DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS', R11-2 'ROAD CLOSED', R3-1 'NO RIGHT TURN', R3-2 'NO LEFT TURN', R5-1 'DO NOT ENTER' signage, and pavement markings as shown in plans.

Due to the severe dip in the Poarch Road roadway as it crosses the railroad track, RCTC is proposing to restrict access to emergency vehicles and railroad service vehicles only. The crossing will be locked at all times with the installation of locked security access gates for both east and west approaches to the crossing and can only be unlocked by fire, emergency responders and/or authorized personnel. A special emergency sign will be posted at both locked gates to inform authorized personnel to contact Metrolink Operations before entering.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request by RCTC, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As RCTC, County, Metrolink 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 letter dated July 10, 2012 and summarized above are authorized.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with the CA MUTCD, published by the California Department of Transportation. All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and CAMUTCD.

This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended. [California Public Resources Code 21084]

This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with and 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, RCTC 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 as outlined on the web page.

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At the conclusion of the project, RCTC (or BNSF, as appropriate) 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.

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Lay at 213-576-1399 or bl@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daren Gilbert". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

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

C: Melvin Thomas, Public Project Manager, BNSF
Juan C. Perez, Director of Transportation, County of Riverside
Laura Mohr, Crossings Design Task Manager, AECOM
Richard Quirk, Project Manager, STV Incorporated
Naresh Patel, Public Projects Engineer, Metrolink