

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



August 7, 2012

File Number: G.12-07-007  
Mount Vernon Avenue  
City of Riverside, Riverside County

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

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Modify the Mount Vernon Avenue Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 002X-3.40 and DOT No. 027308W, in the City of Riverside, 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 Mount Vernon Avenue 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-3.40 and DOT Number 027308W.

The Mount Vernon Avenue single track at-grade crossing is currently a divided roadway with two lanes, one lane in each direction. The crossing is equipped with two curb mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal Assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices. 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 previously requested authorization, pursuant to GO 88-B, to alter this crossing (file number G.10-09-014). We granted the requested authorization on October 19, 2010 and the authorization will expire on October 19, 2012.

RCTC proposes the following alterations to the crossing, as part of the City's project to create a 24-hour quiet zone at four crossings between milepost 1.50 and milepost 3.41 and as part of the PVL Metrolink project to meet Metrolink standards, as Metrolink will be the service operator:

- Remove the existing two curb mounted Commission Standard 9 warning devices;
- Install one new curb mounted Commission Standard 9 warning device for northbound Mount Vernon Avenue, on the southeast quadrant of the crossing;

- Install one new curb mounted Commission Standard 9 warning device for southbound Mount Vernon Avenue, on the northwest quadrant of the crossing;
- Construct a new raised median 8-inch in height, 4-feet in width, and approximately 100-feet in length on the southbound approach to the crossing;
- Construct a new raised median 8-inch in height, 4-feet in width, and approximately 100-feet in length on the northbound approach to the crossing;
- Install four Commission Standard 9 pedestrian gate warning devices in combination with swing gates at all pedestrian sidewalk approaches to the crossing;
- Install pedestrian channelization in the form of hand railing along the pedestrian crossing approaches and fencing along the right of way to prevent trespassing, as shown in plans;
- Install Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant detectable warning tactile strips at all pedestrian sidewalk approaches to the crossing;
- Construct ADA compliant sidewalks on both sides of the crossing;
- 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 W10-1 and W10-4L advance warning signs, R15-8 'LOOK', R8-8 'DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS' signage, and 'WAIT HERE' pavement markings as shown in plans.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request by RCTC, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As RCTC, City, 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 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](mailto:rces@cpuc.ca.gov) as outlined on the web page.

Edda Rosso  
G.12-07-007  
August 7, 2012  
Page 3 of 3

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](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, 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  
Tom Boyd , Deputy Public Works Director / City Engineer, City of Riverside  
Laura Mohr, Crossings Design Task Manager, AECOM  
Richard Quirk, Project Manager, STV Incorporated  
Naresh Patel, Public Projects Engineer, SCRRA