

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

320 W. 4TH STREET, SUITE 500
LOS ANGELES, CA 90013



October 25, 2012

File Number: G.12-10-007
Glen Helen Parkway
Unincorporated Area, San Bernardino County

Eric Jacobsen
Public Works Engineer III
County of San Bernardino
825 East Third Street
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0835

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Modify the Glen Helen Parkway Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing Nos. 001BB-480.10 / 002-71.00 and DOT No. 747017U / 026103A respectively, in Unincorporated Area of San Bernardino County

Dear Mr. Jacobsen:

This refers to your letter dated August 24, 2012, received by us on October 2, 2012, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to grade-separate the existing Glen Helen Parkway at-grade crossing on the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) 001BB – Palmdale to Colton Cutoff and BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) mainline 2B – Barstow to National City tracks, in the unincorporated area of San Bernardino County (County), identified as CPUC Crossing Numbers 001BB-480.10 / 002B-41.80 and DOT Numbers 747017U / 026103A respectively.

The Glen Helen Parkway at-grade crossing is currently a divided roadway with two lanes, one lane in each direction that crosses over one UPRR track and three BNSF tracks. The UPRR crossing is equipped with two curb mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices and the BNSF crossing is equipped with one curb mounted Commission Standard 9-A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and additional flashing light signal over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) and one curb mounted Commission Standard 9 warning devices with advance warning signage and pavement markings.

In addition to UPRR and BNSF freight trains, the National Passenger Railroad Corporation (Amtrak) operates passenger trains over this line.

County proposes the following alterations to the existing Glen Helen Parkway crossing:

- Construct a four lane overhead bridge structure crossing the UPRR and BNSF railroad tracks north of the existing at-grade crossing.

During construction, the existing Glen Helen Parkway at-grade crossing will remain open to all vehicular traffic. As part of the project, County requests a temporary deviation from the vertical clearance requirements of GO 26-D, for an impaired clearance of 21 feet 5 inches above the top rail during construction for both the UPRR and BNSF tracks. GO 26-D, Section 2.1, requires a minimum vertical clearance of 22 feet 6 inches. Its permanent vertical clearance will be 31.28 feet for UPRR and 25.22 feet for BNSF tracks. UPRR and BNSF provided concurrence to the proposed modification and impaired temporary vertical clearance during construction.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request by County, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As County, UPRR 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 August 24, 2012, and summarized above are authorized.

The following requirements pertain to this authorization:

- The new grade separated structure will be identified as CPUC Crossing Number 001BB-480.10-A and DOT Number 440678K for the UPRR crossing and 002-71.00-A and DOT Number 929077H for the BNSF crossing;
- The existing at-grade crossing shall be closed and all warning devices and signage shall be removed once the new grade separated crossing is constructed and traffic is routed onto the complete grade separated crossing; and
- UPRR and BNSF shall provide the train schedule and railroad flagging during construction for the safety of the public, construction workers, train operators and train operations.

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 CA MUTCD..

This project is statutorily exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended. [California Public Resources Code 21080.13]

Pursuant to Commission Resolution SX-76 and Section 16.2 of GO 26-D, County is granted a temporary deviation from GO 26-D, Section 2.1 and is authorized a temporary overhead clearance of not less than 21 feet 5 inches above the top of the highest rail to the lowest of point on the overhead structure during construction, including construction false work.

County shall notify UPRR, BNSF and the Los Angeles Office of the Commission's Consumer Protection and Safety Division – Rail Operations Safety Branch (ROSB) and Rail Crossings Engineering Section at least 15 days but not more than 30 days in advance of the date when the County will create the temporary reduced vertical clearance. For the Commission, this notification may be submitted electronically to rces@cpuc.ca.gov.

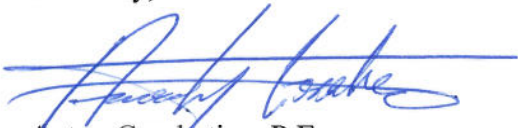
This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with and the work is not completed within three years of the date of this letter. Upon written request to RCES, the time to complete the project may be extended. Any written request for a time extension must include concurrence 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, County 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 Commission web site Form G page at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/safety/Rail/Crossings/formg> . This report may be submitted electronically to rces@cpuc.ca.gov as outlined on the web page.

At the conclusion of the project, UPRR and BNSF should submit an updated FRA inventory form to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), reflecting the changes. Commission 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 bll@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Anton Garabetian, P.E.
Program and Project Supervisor
Rail Crossings Engineering Section
Consumer Protection and Safety Division

C: Melvin Thomas, Public Project Manager, BNSF
Kenneth Tom, Manager Public Projects, UPRR
Harry Steelman, Division Engineer, Amtrak