

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



March 21, 2013

File Number: G.13-03-001

Airport Boulevard
Unincorporated Thermal Area of Riverside County

Scott Staley
Project Manager
County of Riverside, Transportation Department
4080 Lemons Street, 8th Floor
Riverside, CA 92501

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Modify the Airport Boulevard Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 001B-617.90 and DOT No. 760727M, in the Unincorporated Thermal Area of Riverside County

Dear Mr. Staley:

This refers to your letter dated February 20, 2013, received by us on March 1, 2013, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to grade-separate the Airport Boulevard (formerly known as Avenue 56) at-grade crossing (crossing) on the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Mainline B Subdivision track, in unincorporated Thermal area of Riverside County, identified as CPUC Crossing Number 001B-617.90 and DOT Number 760727M.

The crossing is a divided roadway with two lanes, one lane in each direction that crosses over two UPRR tracks. The crossing is equipped with two curb mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices with advance warning signage and pavement markings.

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

The County of Riverside Transportation Department (County) proposes to construct a four lane overhead roadway bridge structure crossing the UPRR railroad tracks.

During construction, the crossing will be closed to all vehicular and pedestrian traffic and the at-grade crossing will be removed including all railroad warning devices. As part of the project, the County is requesting a temporary deviation from the vertical clearance requirements of GO 26-D, for an impaired clearance of 21 feet 0 inches above the top rail during construction. GO 26-D, Section 2.1, requires a minimum vertical clearance of 22 feet 6 inches. The permanent vertical clearance will be 25 feet 6 inches.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request by the County, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As County and UPRR 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 February 20, 2013, and summarized above are authorized.

The following requirements pertain to this authorization:

- The new grade separated structure will be identified as CPUC Crossing Number 001B-617.90-A and DOT Number 440735W;
- The existing at-grade crossing shall be closed to public access by installing K-Rail during construction. The at-grade crossing shall be eliminated by removing the pavement approaches, traffic signals, crossing panels, and railroad signal equipment; and
- UPRR shall provide the train schedule and railroad flagging during construction for the safety of construction workers, train operators and train operations.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (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]

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.

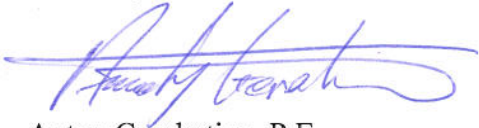
Within 30 days after completion of this project, County shall notify RCES that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G title *Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossings and Separation*. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the Commission web site Form G page at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/safety/Rail/Crossings/formg.htm>. This report may be submitted electronically to rces@cpuc.ca.gov as outlined on the web page.

At the conclusion of the project, UPRR should submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form to the 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 Sergio Licon at 213-576-7085 or sal@cpuc.ca.gov.

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Sincerely,



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

C: Kenneth Tom, Manager Public Projects, UPRR
Harry Steelman, Division Engineer-West, Amtrak
Khalid Nasim, Engineering Division Manager, County of Riverside Transportation Dept.