

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

320 W. 4th Street, Suite 500
Los Angeles, CA 90013



April 16, 2013

Thomas Geiss
Senior Engineering Technician
Stanislaus County Public Works Department
1716 Morgan Road
Modesto, CA 95358

File No. G.13-03-004

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Hatch Road Highway–
Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 002-1086.90 and DOT No. 028739S, in the
County of Stanislaus.**

Dear Mr. Geiss:

This refers to your letter dated March 4, 2013, received by us via email on March 12, 2013, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Hatch Road highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) track in the County of Stanislaus (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 002-1086.90 and DOT No.028739S.

At the crossing, Hatch Road is a rural principal arterial roadway with two lanes that intersect Santa Fe Avenue, a major County road, east of the track. No medians or sidewalks are available at the crossing. There is one track aligned in a northwest-southeast direction. A total of 26 freight and 12 Amtrak passenger trains frequent the crossing per day. It is equipped with two Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices installed on the shoulders of the roadway.

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

- Removing existing warning devices;
- Installing medians per plan;
- Installing a Commission Standard 9 warning device on the median and 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 the west side of the track per plan;
- Installing in the northeast corner of the crossing, a Commission Standard 9 on both the shoulder of the roadway and the gore island per plan;
- Installing a Commission Standard 9 warning device on the median island on the east side of the track per plan;
- Installing traffic signals 110 feet east of the crossing at the Hatch Road/Santa Fe Avenue intersection to provide a steady-red operation and limited service mode during railroad preemption per plan;

- Installing an advance preemption time of 26 seconds for the Hatch Road/Santa Fe Avenue intersection traffic signals, which in addition to the minimum railroad warning time of 20 seconds and 2 additional seconds of clearance time, will provide a grand total railroad warning time of 48 seconds for the crossing;
- Installing a pre-signal at the crossing consisting of a main pre-signal mast installed on the shoulder of the roadway 15 feet east of the track and an additional small signal mast pre-signal installed on both the shoulder and the median on the west side of the track per plan. All pre-signal lamps shall be installed as to not block the visibility of the lamps of the railroad crossing warning devices;
- Installing a "STOP HERE ON RED" (R10-6) sign at the railroad limit line on the west side of the track on both the shoulder and the median per plan;
- Installing a "DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS" (R8-8) sign on the west side of the track below both R10-6 signs per plan;
- Installing a "NO RIGHT TURN ON RED" (R13(CA)) sign on the small single mast pre-signal on both the shoulder and the median on the west side of the track per plan;
- Installing "WAIT HERE" pavement markings on each of the three lanes just west of the railroad limit line per plan;
- Installing cross-hatching pavement markings from the railroad limit line, eastward toward the track and to the Hatch Road/ Santa Fe Avenue intersection per plan;
- Installing, in addition to the cross-hatching pavement markings, "KEEP CLEAR" pavement markings from the railroad limit line, eastward toward the track and to the Hatch Road/ Santa Fe Avenue intersection per plan;
- Installing a W10-1 at-grade crossing advance warning sign on the shoulder of the roadway corresponding to the location of the RXR pavement markings on both the eastbound and westbound Hatch Road approaches per plan;
- Installing a W10-2 parallel roadway at-grade crossing advance warning sign on the Santa Fe Avenue approaches per plan;
- Installing striping per plan;
- Installing curbs or dikes per plan.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) staff has investigated the request by the County, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the County and BNSF (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.08, Temporary Traffic Control Zones, of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD), 2012 Edition, 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].

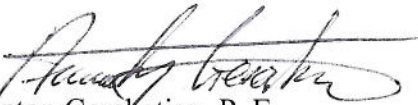
This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within three years of the date of this letter. Upon written request to this office, the time to complete the project may be extended. A written request for a time extension must include concurrence letters by interested Parties in support of the time extension. If an extension is requested, RCES may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, the County 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/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, BNSF 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.

If you have any questions, please contact Marvin Kennix at (916) 928-3809 or email at mlk@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

Cc: Aja Verburg, Associate Engineer, Stanislaus County Public Works Department
John Stilley, Manager of Industry & Public Projects, BNSF