

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



November 26, 2013

David R. Wlaschin, Director
Public Works Department
City of Lemoore
210 Fox Street
Lemoore, CA 93245

XREQ2013110001

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the 19 1/2 Avenue At-Grade Highway–Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 103BD-262.10 and DOT No. 750796T, in the City of Lemoore, Kings County.

Dear Mr. Wlaschin:

This refers to your letter received by us via email on October 30, 2013, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the 19 1/2 Avenue at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) track, leased to the San Joaquin Valley Railroad (SJVR), in the City of Lemoore (City), Kings County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 103BD-262.10 and DOT No. 750796T.

At the crossing, 19 1/2 Avenue is a local roadway with two lanes, where the annual average daily traffic is approximately 4000 vehicles. There are no raised medians, or sidewalks that extend across the tracks at the crossing. There is a sidewalk on the east side of the roadway; however, it does not extend across the track as it ends north of the track. There is one track aligned in a northeast-southwest direction. SJVR operates two freight trains per day (UPRR does not operate any) across this crossing. There are two Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices at the crossing.

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

- upgrading the Commission Standard 9 warning device lamps to light emitting diodes and the bells to electronic sound internals;
- removing a concrete culvert and rails on the west side of the roadway and replacing it with engineered fill material and new rails per SJVR requirements;
- installing a 6 foot wide Americans with Disabilities Act compliant pathway (sidewalk) across the track on the west side of the roadway per plan;
- installing concrete panels to accommodate the sidewalk, which will have detectable warning (tactile strips), on the west side of the roadway per plan;
- installing a pedestrian barricade on the east side of the roadway, north of the track at the end of the sidewalk section per plan;
- installing asphaltic concrete dikes, signage and striping per plan.

The City has decided to not increase the number of vehicle lanes (two) across the crossing at this time due to funding issues and the current low traffic volume. The City should consider increasing the number of vehicle lanes across the tracks if the traffic volume increases substantially and adequate funding is available. At such time that the volume of traffic increases substantially, the Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) staff may request that the City consider filing a GO 88-B request to widen the roadway to four lanes across the crossing.

RCES staff has investigated the request by the City, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City, UPRR, and SJVR (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].

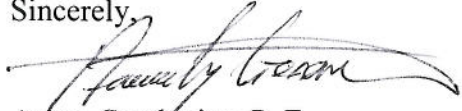
This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within three years of the date of this letter. Upon written request to this office, the time to complete the project may be extended. A written request for a time extension must include concurrence 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 City 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, SJVR 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

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Cc: Joseph W. Evans, General Manager, SJVR
Kenneth Tom, Manager of Industry and Public Projects, UPRR
Lauren Apone, Administrative Analyst, City of Lemoore