

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

320 W. 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET, SUITE 500  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90013



January 13, 2014

File Number: XREQ2013120010  
Buena Vista Road  
City of Bakersfield, Kern County

Nick Fidler  
Assistant Public Works Director  
City of Bakersfield  
1501 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

**SENT VIA E-MAIL**

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Modify the Buena Vista Road At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, Identified as CPUC Crossing No. 103BT-324.50 and DOT No. 750982U, in the City of Bakersfield, Kern County.**

Dear Mr. Fidler:

This refers to your letter dated December 26, 2013, received by us on January 08, 2014, requesting authorization, pursuant to the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the Buena Vista Road at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) Buttonwillow Subdivision mainline track in the City of Bakersfield (City), Kern County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 103BT-324.50 and DOT No. 750982U. Although Section 4 of GO 88-B requires "*Notice of the proposed alteration and a request for authority shall be served on the Commission staff at least 45 days before the date the alteration is planned to start...*", City submitted its letter after the project was completed.

The single-track crossing was a two-lane roadway with one through lane in each direction. The crossing was equipped with two curb mounted Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) warning devices, one for each roadway approach. UPRR and San Joaquin Valley Railway (SJVR) operate approximately two freight trains per day over this line with a maximum train speed of 20 MPH.

In an effort to accommodate recent commercial development in the crossing vicinity, the City has completed the following modifications as part of the Buena Vista Road Improvements Project:

- Removal of existing curb-mounted Commission Standard 8 warning devices;
- Installation of two median mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices, one for each approach;
- Installation of two curb mounted Commission Standard 9A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilever arm) warning devices, one for each approach;
- Installation of two curb mounted Commission Standard 8 warning devices, one at northeast quadrant, and one at southwest quadrant of the crossing;

- Reconstruction and widening of the roadway to include one 12-foot southbound lane and two 12-foot northbound lanes;
- Construction of 14-foot wide raised medians along the center of Buena Vista Road for northbound and southbound vehicular approaches;
- Construction of roadway curb and gutter improvements and re-profiling of roadway crossing approaches;
- Installation of a five-foot wide bike lane along westerly side of the crossing;
- Construction of six-foot wide Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sidewalks with detectable warning tactile strips on all four crossing quadrants;
- Installation of concrete panel crossing surface; and
- Re-application of California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) standard pavement markings and signage.

The Commission's Rail Crossing Engineering Section (RCES) staff has investigated the request by City, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City, SJVR, 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 letter dated December 26, 2013, and summarized above are authorized.

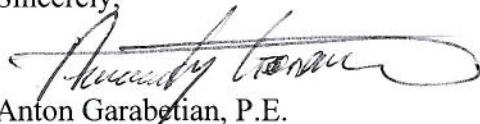
This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended [California Public Resources Code 21084].

City shall submit a completed Commission Standard Form G titled *Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossings and Separations* no later than 30 days from the date of this letter. 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.

RCES staff remind the City that although we approve the project in this instance even though the request was not filed in advance of making the modifications, in order to comply with requirements of GO 88-B, the City must file their GO 88-B application before making modifications to rail crossings.

If you have any questions, please contact Oliver Garcia at (213) 576-7077 or [og1@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:og1@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



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

cc: **(SENT VIA E-MAIL)**

Raul M. Rojas, Public Works Director, City of Bakersfield  
Joseph Evans, General Manager, SJVR  
Ken Tom, Special Projects Manager, UPRR