

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



March 10, 2014

Alan Weaver
Director
Department of Public Works and Planning
County of Fresno
2220 Tulare Street
Fresno, CA 93721

XREQ2014010007

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Conejo Avenue At-Grade Highway–Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 002-982.10 and DOT No. 028442L in the County of Fresno.

Dear Mr. Weaver:

This refers to your letter received by us via email on January 27, 2013, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Conejo Avenue at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) tracks in an unincorporated area of the County of Fresno (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 002-982.10 and DOT No.028442L.

At the crossing, Conejo Avenue is a local rural east-west roadway with two lanes where the annual average daily traffic is 1100 vehicles. There are no raised medians or sidewalks at the crossing. There are two tracks, one mainline and one siding, aligned in a northwest-southeast direction. There are 25 freight and 12 Amtrak trains that frequent this crossing per day. There is a Commission Standard 9-A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm with additional flashing lights over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning device on both sides of the crossing. This project is being done in conjunction with the Section 130 Program.

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

- Installing a train-activated active advance warning system on the east and west approaches that will consist of a pair of flashing yellow beacons located at each passive W10-1 advance warning sign placed approximately 500 feet from the centerline of the nearest track on each approach per plan. A fail-safe battery back-up shall be included as part of the active advance warning system;
- Providing signal interconnection and junction boxes installed (by BNSF) near the existing warning devices for the operation of the active advance warning system on the east and west approaches;
- Installing signage and striping as necessary.

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 Temporary Traffic Control Zones, Section 8A.08, 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].

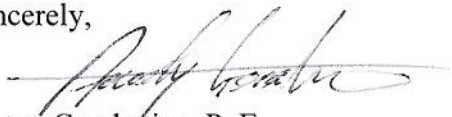
This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within three years of the date of this letter. Upon written request to this office, the time to complete the project may be extended. A written request for a time extension must include concurrence 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: Marina Popov, Project Engineer, Dept. of Public Works and Planning, County of Fresno
Jason Sanchez, Manager of Industry and Public Projects, BNSF
Bree Arnett, CPUC