

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



File XREQ2014040008
Main Street
Unincorporated Imperial County

May 27, 2014

Chris Keckeisen
Sr. Manager, Industry & Public Projects
Union Pacific Railroad
2015 S. Willow Avenue
Bloomington, CA 92316
CTKECKEI@UP.COM

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Main Street At-Grade Highway–Rail Crossing, Identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001B-667.80 and DOT No. 760743W in Unincorporated Area of County of Imperial.

Dear Mr. Keckeisen:

This refers to the letter signed by Kenneth Tom of Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR), received by us via email on April 18, 2014, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Main Street at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the UPRR tracks near the town of Niland, County of Imperial (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001B-667.80 and DOT No. 760743W.

At the crossing, Main Street is a minor collector roadway with 2 lanes where the annual average daily traffic is 1,345 vehicles. Although the posted speed limit is 55 MPH, the typical speed of motorists is significantly lower due to the roadway geometry and proximity to the town of Niland. There are 2 tracks aligned in a northwest-southeast direction. Approximately 37 freight trains at up to 65 mph and 2 passenger trains at up to 79 mph frequent this crossing each day. There is a Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning device on the shoulder facing both vehicular approaches to the crossing.

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

- Shifting the existing siding track 5.8 feet north of the main line track, to obtain a distance of 20.0 feet between the two track centers;
- Removing existing and installing 2 new Commission Standard 9 warning devices with light emitting diode flashing light signals;
- Resurfacing/reconstructing the asphalt approach on the north side; and
- Applying California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) standard signage and pavement markings, including W10-1 "RXR" advance warning signs.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) staff has investigated the request by UPRR, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As UPRR and the County (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.

UPRR must also ensure that the crossing Emergency Notification Signs are installed to comply with CFR 234.309.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with Temporary Traffic Control Zones, Section 8A.08, of the CA MUTCD, 2012 Edition, published by the California Department of Transportation.

All Parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including other Commission General Orders and the CA MUTCD.

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, UPRR 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 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 staff requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to rces@cpuc.ca.gov.

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If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Schumacher at kevin.schumacher@cpuc.ca.gov or (415)310-9807. Additional contact information is available on the CPUC website at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/crossings>.

Sincerely,



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

cc: **(SENT VIA EMAIL)**
John Gay, County of Imperial

