

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



August 26, 2014

File Number: XREQ2014080002  
Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard  
Bakersfield, Kern County

Joseph Evans  
General Manager  
San Joaquin Valley Railroad  
221 N. "F" Street, P.O. Box 937  
Exeter, CA 93221

**SENT VIA E-MAIL**

Re: **General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Modify the Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, Identified as CPUC Crossing No. 103BT-315.10 and DOT No. 750997J, in the City of Bakersfield, Kern County.**

Dear Mr. Evans:

This refers to your letter, dated and received by us on July 28, 2014, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the Martin Luther King Jr. at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the San Joaquin Valley Railroad (SJVR) Buttonwillow Subdivision tracks in the City of Bakersfield (City), Kern County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 103BT-315.10 and DOT No. 750997J.

The double track crossing is a four-lane roadway, located south of the Wilkins Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard STOP sign controlled intersection. The crossing is equipped with two curb-mounted Commission Standard 9-A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilever arm) warning devices. SJVR operates freight trains on this line and the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) owns the right-of-way. SJVR operates approximately four freight trains daily with a maximum speed of 25 miles per hour (MPH).

As part of the Sunset-Buttonwillow Rehabilitation Project, SJVR proposes the following modifications:

- Remove abandoned spur track within the railroad right of way;
- Relocate one Commission Standard 9-A warning device in the southeast quadrant from 125 feet to 44 feet from centerline of rail;
- Continue the curb line on the southeast quadrant north to 10 feet from centerline of rail;
- Construct Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complaint sidewalks at all four crossing quadrants;
- Install ADA compliant detectable warning tactile strips at all four crossing quadrants;
- Replace all incandescent warning lights with 12-inch light-emitting diodes and 24-inch backgrounds;

- Install railroad concrete crossing panels to accommodate all roadway and walkway crossing surfaces; and
- Apply California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) standard signage and pavement markings, as required, such as the stop line under the relocated warning device.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request filed by SJVR and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As City, UPRR, and SJVR 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 request dated July 28, 2014, and summarized above are authorized.

UPRR/SJVR must ensure that Emergency Notification Signs are installed to comply with CFR 234.309.

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 RCEB, the time to complete the project may be extended. Any written request for a time extension must include concurrence letters by involved parties in support of the time extension. If an extension is requested, RCEB may re-evaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

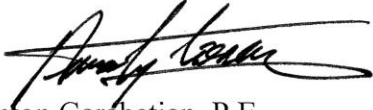
Within 30 days after completion of this project, SJVR shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is complete, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G titled *Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossings and Separations*. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the Commission web site Form G page at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/safety/Rail/Crossings/formg>. This report may be submitted electronically to [rces@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:rces@cpuc.ca.gov) as outlined on the web page.

At the conclusion of the project, SJVR shall submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form to the FRA, reflecting the changes. Commission requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to [rces@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:rces@cpuc.ca.gov).

Joseph Evans  
XREQ2014080002  
August 26, 2014  
Page 3 of 3

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 Branch  
Safety and Enforcement Division

cc: **(SENT VIA E-MAIL)**  
Nick Fidler, City of Bakersfield  
Chris Keckeisen, UPRR  
John Mollart, SJVR

*[Faint, illegible handwritten text]*