

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



September 23, 2014

File Number: XREQ2014090011
Avenue 424
Unincorporated, Tulare 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 Avenue 424 At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, Identified as CPUC Crossing No. 103BC-233.00 and DOT No. 756845H, in Unincorporated Tulare County.

Dear Mr. Evans:

This refers to your letter, dated and received by us on September 12, 2014, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC / Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the Avenue 424 at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the San Joaquin Valley Railroad (SJVR) Exeter Subdivision track in the unincorporated Tulare County (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 103BC-233.00 and DOT No. 756845H.

The single track crossing is a two-lane roadway equipped with two curb-mounted Commission Standard 1-R (crossbuck sign installed on a retro-reflectorized wood or metal post) warning devices. SJVR operates approximately two freight trains daily with a maximum speed of 10 miles per hour.

SJVR proposes the following modifications:

- Replace curb-mounted Commission Standard 1-R warning device for westbound vehicular approach, in northeast quadrant of crossing, with 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 device;
- Replace curb-mounted Commission Standard 1-R warning device for eastbound vehicular approach, in southwest quadrant of crossing, with Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning device;
- Install constant time warning train detection; and
- Apply California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) standard signage and pavement markings, as shown per plans.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request filed by SJVR and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As County 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 September 12, 2014, and summarized above are authorized.

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

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with the CA MUTCD. All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission GO's and CA MUTCD.

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

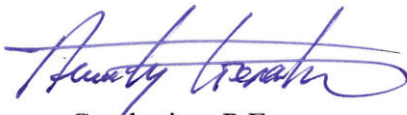
This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within three years of the date of this letter. Upon written request to RCEB, the time to complete the project may be extended. Any written request for a time extension must include concurrence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

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

Sincerely,



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

cc: **(SENT VIA E-MAIL)**
Johnny Wong, County
Kevin Boles, Xorail