

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



February 23, 2015

File Number: XREQ 2015020001  
Eastbound Magnolia Avenue Pathway  
Home Garden (Unincorporated), Riverside County

Dowling Tsai  
Engineering Project Manager  
Riverside County Transportation Department  
3525 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Riverside, CA 92501

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Eastbound Magnolia Avenue At-Grade Pathway-Rail Crossing, Identified as CPUC Crossing No. 002B-20.20-D, and DOT No. 027472A, in the City of Home Garden (Unincorporated), Riverside County.**

Dear Mr. Tsai:

This refers to your letter, dated and received by us on February 11, 2015, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the Eastbound Magnolia Avenue at-grade pathway-rail crossing (crossing) of the BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) Mainline 2B tracks in the City of Home Garden (unincorporated), Riverside County (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 002B-20.20-D, DOT No. 027472A.

The Eastbound Magnolia Avenue crossing is a pedestrian/bike path that crosses over two BNSF mainline tracks. The crossing is equipped with one curb mounted Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) warning device. Buchanan Street is approximately 530 feet east of the crossing and is a signalized intersection. In addition to BNSF freight trains, the Southern California Regional Rail Authority and the National Passenger Railroad Corporation operate passenger trains over this line.

A Grade separation project is currently under way at this crossing. The estimated completion date for the grade separation is August 2016, after which the at-grade crossing will be eliminated. As an interim measure to enhance the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists, the County proposes the following alterations to the crossing as indicated in its request:

- Install one Commission Standard 8 warning device on the north side of the crossing;
- Re-surface asphalt pavement pathway crossing approaches;
- Replace rubber crossing surface panels with asphalt to provide a smoother walking surface;
- Install Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complaint detectable warning tactile strips for each pathway crossing approach; and

- Apply California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings for each pathway crossing approach.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request by the County and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the County and BNSF are in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, the County may proceed with the alternations as described in its request letter and attachments, and summarized above.

BNSF must also ensure that Emergency Notification System signs are installed to comply with Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 234.309.

County shall provide temporary traffic controls in compliance with Section 8A.08, Temporary Traffic Control Zones, of the CA MUTCD, 2014 Edition, published by the California Department of Transportation.

All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission GO's, ADA, and the 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, County shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed, 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 CPUC 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).

At the conclusion of the project, BNSF should electronically submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the FRA, reflecting the changes. 49 CFR 234 Section 234.409 requires the railroads to submit periodic crossing inventory updates a minimum of once every three years.

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If you have any questions, please contact Sergio Licon at (213) 576-7085 or [sal@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:sal@cpuc.ca.gov) .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anton Garabetian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent horizontal stroke across the middle.

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

cc: **(SENT VIA EMAIL)**  
Matt Keim, BNSF  
Patricia Romo, County

