

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



August 27, 2015

File Number: XREQ 2015080003
Long Beach Freeway (I-710) Overpass
Cities of Commerce and Vernon, Los Angeles County

Steven Johnson
Right of Way Agent/ Railroad Coordinator
California Department of Transportation
100 South Main Street, MS 6
Los Angeles, CA 90012

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Modify the Grade-Separated Highway-Rail Crossing at Long Beach Freeway (I-710) Overpass, Identified as CPUC Crossing No. 002-146.40-A and DOT No. 027634A, in Cities of Commerce and Vernon, Los Angeles County

Dear Mr. Johnson:

This refers to your letter, dated August 14, 2015, received by us on August 24, 2015, requesting authorization pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the Long Beach Freeway (I-710) grade-separated highway-rail crossing (crossing) over the BNSF Railroad Company (BNSF) Hobart Yard tracks, in the Cities of Commerce and Vernon, Los Angeles County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 002-146.40-A and DOT No. 027634A.

The crossing is a ten-lane bridge structure, five northbound and five southbound lanes, that crosses over the BNSF Hobart Yard tracks. BNSF operates approximately 55 freight trains daily with a maximum speed of 50 miles per hour (MPH); the National Passenger Railroad Corporation (Amtrak) and the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (Metrolink) operate approximately 40 passenger trains daily with a maximum speed of 60 MPH.

To enhance motorists and maintenance personnel safety, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) plans to widen each side of I-710 bridge structure from approximately 22 to 26-feet, to increase travel lanes and shoulders widths and establish maintenance pullout areas.

All proposed permanent and temporary clearances comply with Commission GO 26-D minimum clearance requirements.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request by Caltrans and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As Caltrans and BNSF 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 letter dated August 14, 2015, and summarized above are authorized.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with the current version of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD), published by the California Department of Transportation. All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and the CA MUTCD.

This project is statutorily exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended [California Public Resources Code §21080.13].

This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within three (3) 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, Caltrans and/or BNSF 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 Separation*. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the Commission web site at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/safety/Rail/Crossings/formg>. This report may be submitted electronically to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov as outlined on the web page.

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. Commission requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

If you have any questions, please contact Chi Cheung To at (213) 576-5766 or at cct@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

cc: **(SENT VIA E-MAIL)**
Brian Wallace, Caltrans
Matthew Keim, BNSF