

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



November 13, 2015

File Number: XREQ 2015100001
Ivy Street
City of Riverside, Riverside County

David Buzon
District 8 Railroad Coordinator
California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
464 West Fourth Street, MS 950
San Bernardino, CA 92401

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Modify the Ivy Street Grade-Separated Highway-Rail Crossing, Identified as CPUC Crossing Number 002B-11.30-A, and DOT Number 026494W, in the City of Riverside, Riverside County.

Dear Mr. Buzon:

This refers to your letter dated and received by us on September 23, 2015, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC/Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the grade-separated Ivy Street and the BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) tracks highway-rail crossing (crossing), in the City of Riverside (City), Riverside County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing Number 002B-11.30-A, DOT Number 026494W.

The original authorization (G.11-02-014) was granted on March 10, 2011, which expired on March 10, 2014. California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) did not request a time extension prior to the expiration date, nor was construction of the grade-separation completed. Caltrans is requesting a new authorization to modify the Ivy Street grade-separated crossing.

Ivy Street is a two lane grade-separated overhead structure that crosses over the State Route (SR) 91 freeway and two sets of BNSF tracks. Caltrans in partnership with Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) and in cooperation with the City of Riverside plan to widen the SR 91 freeway to add one High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane in each direction, adjacent to the median of the existing freeway. The widening of SR 91 will require the replacement of Ivy Street grade separated structure over the freeway and BNSF tracks. In addition to BNSF freight trains, the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) and the National Passenger Railroad Corporation (Amtrak) operate passenger trains over this line at a maximum speed of 60 MPH.

Caltrans proposes the following alterations to the grade-separated crossing:

- Remove and replace the grade separated Ivy Street structure to accommodate the widening of SR 91;

- Widen the new bridge structure from 36 feet to 42 feet in width with a minimum vertical clearance of 23 feet 10 inches; and
- Close the Ivy Street grade separation to vehicular traffic during the demolition and construction of the grade separated overhead structure.

The project proposes a minimum permanent vertical clearance of 23 feet 10 inches, which complies with the minimum clearance requirements specified in the Commission (GO) 26-D.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request filed by Caltrans and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As Caltrans, City 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 received by us on September 23, 2015, and summarized above are authorized.

This project is statutorily exempt from the requirements of the California Environment 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 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 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 Commission web site at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/safety/Rail/Crossings/formg.htm>. This report may be submitted electronically to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

At the conclusion of the project, BNSF shall 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. Commission requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anton Garabetian", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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

cc: **(SENT VIA E-MAIL)**
Matt Keim, BNSF
Farshid Mohammadi, City of Riverside
Gina Gallagher, RCTC

