

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



July 21, 2016

File Number: XREQ 2016060003

Dominic Tyburski
Chief Engineer
County of Kings
1400 West Lacey Boulevard, Building 6
Hanford, CA 93230

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Kansas Avenue At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 002-959.90 and DOT No. 028400A, in unincorporated Kings County.

Dear Mr. Tyburski:

This refers to your letter received by us via email on June 10, 2016, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Kings Avenue at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the BNSF Railway (BNSF) tracks in an unincorporated Kings County (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 002-959.90 and DOT No. 028400A.

The two track crossing is equipped with two Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices. BNSF operates 30 freight trains per day at a maximum speed of 70 MPH and Amtrak operates 12 passenger trains per day at a maximum speed of 79 MPH at the crossing. At the crossing, Kansas Avenue is a rural, minor arterial roadway with an average daily traffic of 3,390 vehicles. There are two approaches, one eastbound and one westbound, across the tracks.

The project involves the replacement of the existing warning devices, modification of the three active advance warning devices, installation of rumble strips with accompanying signage, pavement markings, and striping. The project is being done in conjunction with the Section 130 Program.

The proposed alterations, as indicated in the County's request letter and/or shown on the plans, shall consist of:

- Removing the existing warning devices and replacing them with two Commission Standard 9-A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and additional lights over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning devices;
- Modifying three active advance warning devices by upgrading the existing incandescent lamps with 12 inch light emitting diode lamps, replacing existing wooden posts with steel support posts and concrete foundations, and providing battery power supply backup;
- Installing thermoplastic transverse rumble strips on Kansas Avenue 600 feet in advance of the nearest rail on both approaches;

- Installing a “RUMBLE STRIPS AHEAD” sign in advance of the rumble strips on both approaches; and
- Replacing all pavement markings and striping with those made from thermoplastic material.

The Commission’s Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) staff has investigated the request by the County, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the County and BNSF (Parties) 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 improvements as described in its request letter and attachments, and summarized above.

All Parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including other Commission General Orders and the latest version of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD). Temporary traffic controls shall be in compliance with the latest version of the CAMUTCD.

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 this office, the time to complete the project may be extended. A written request for a time extension must include concurrence letters by interested Parties in support of the time extension. If an extension is requested, RCEB may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

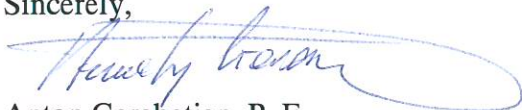
Within 30 days after completion of this project, the County shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the CPUC web site at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/crossings/>. This report may be submitted electronically to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

At the conclusion of the project, the County should submit an updated electronic inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the Federal Railroad Administration, reflecting the changes. 49 CFR 234 Section 234.409 requires railroads to submit periodic crossing inventory updates a minimum of once every three years. The Commission requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

Dominic Tyburski
XREQ 2016060003
July 14, 2016
Page 3 of 3

If you have any questions, please contact Marvin Kennix at (916) 928-3809 or email at mlk@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anton Garabetian", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

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

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Cc: Taylor Smith
Juan Rosales
Bree Arnett

