

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



August 04, 2016

File Number: XREQ 2016060005

Famoso Road

Kern County

Michelle Hernandez
Associate Right of Way Agent
California Department of Transportation
855 M Street, Suite 200
Fresno, CA 93721

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Famoso Road At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 001B-292.40 and DOT No. 756952X, in Kern County.

Dear Ms. Hernandez:

This refers to your letter received by us via email on June 29, 2016, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Famoso Road at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Fresno Subdivision line tracks in unincorporated County of Kern (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001B-292.40 and DOT No. 756952X.

The crossing is located east of the State Route (SR)-99 and SR-46 interchange, and tees into SR-46 with a "Y" shaped configuration intersection. A driveway, between this intersection and the crossing, connects to westbound Famoso Road that serves a manufacturing facility. The crossing is equipped with two Commission Standard 9As (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning devices. The roadway average daily traffic is 3000 vehicles, and is heavily travelled by semi-trailer trucks. UPRR operates an average of 20 trains daily with a maximum speed of 60 MPH over this line.

As part of a bridge replacement project, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes the realignment of the SR-46 and Famoso Road to accommodate the construction of a new SR-99 off/on ramp. When completed, SR-46 and Famoso Road will meet in a straight line and will form a new four-legged stop-controlled intersection with the manufacturing facility driveway and the northbound SR-99 on/off ramp. A number of analyses have been conducted by Caltrans to ensure the safety and efficiency of traffic movement over the re-designed roadways and the adjacent Famoso Road crossing.

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

- Realigning east-west roadways SR-46 and Famoso Road to meet in a straight line at the intersection.
- Realigning north-south roadways SR-99 northbound on/off ramp and manufacturing facility driveway to meet in a straight line at the intersection.
- Relocating the STOP (R1-1) sign and STOP pavement marking for westbound Famoso Road traffic at the intersection adjacent to the crossing;
- Installing a STOP (R1-1) sign and STOP pavement marking for eastbound SR-46 traffic at the intersection adjacent to the crossing;
- Installing a STOP (R1-1) sign and STOP pavement marking for southbound driveway traffic at the intersection adjacent to the crossing;
- Installing railroad crossing “RXR” pavement marking on the eastbound SR-46, and northbound SR-99 off ramp right-turning approaches;
- Installing a number of other signs, including W10-1, W10-2R, R8-8, W48CA, W3-1, W4-4p; and
- Installing striping.

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

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

All Parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including 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 CAMUTCD.

UPRR must ensure that Emergency Notification Systems signs are installed to comply with CFR 234.309.

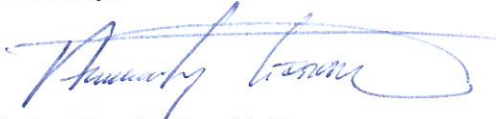
This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within three years of the date of this letter. Upon written request to this office, the time to complete the project may be extended. A written request for a time extension must include concurrence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

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

Sincerely,



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

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Cc: Daniel Moreno, UPRR
Robert W. Neath, Kern County

