

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



May 30, 2017

File Number: XREQ 2017010001
North Demaree Street
City of Visalia, Tulare County

Rebecca Keenan
Project Manager
City of Visalia
315 E. Acequia Ave
Visalia, CA 93291

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the North Demaree Street At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 103AC-250.70, DOT No. 752978L, in the City of Visalia, Tulare County.

Dear Ms. Keenan:

This refers to your letter dated May 16, 2017, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission or CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the North Demaree Street at-grade crossing (crossing) of San Joaquin Valley Railroad (SJVR) Goshen Subdivision in the City of Visalia (City), Tulare County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 103AC-250.70 and DOT No. 752978L.

The crossing consists of a single track and a five lane roadway, and is approximately 14 feet south of the signalized intersection of North Demaree Street and West Goshen Avenue. The crossing is equipped with one Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) and one Commission Standard 9A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning devices. SJVR operates approximately two freight trains per day at a maximum speed of 10 mph. Union Pacific Railroad Company is the owner of the right of way. The average daily vehicle traffic on North Demaree Street is 55,352. The location also experiences heavy pedestrian traffic. A bus station is located southwest of the crossing, and a pedestrian trail is located to the northeast.

The City, in cooperation with SJVR, proposes the following alterations as indicated in the request letter and/or shown in the attachments:

- Widen Demaree Street through the existing railroad crossing to accommodate two additional vehicle lanes;
- Construct turn pockets for Demaree Street southbound and northbound right turns, as well as Goshen Ave eastbound and westbound left turns, with corresponding protected phases for the existing traffic signal;
- Install four new R3-1 and R3-2 (activated blank out) traffic signs to control turning movements approaching the tracks;

- Modify the railroad-traffic signal interconnection circuitry from simultaneous preemption to advance preemption, with actuated pedestrian phases being served;
- Install 10-foot wide, 8-inch high raised medians on both approaches to the crossing, with a pedestrian refuge area south of the tracks;
- Install two (2) median-mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices: one on each north and south side of the crossing;
- Install American with Disabilities Act compliant sidewalks with detectable warning on both sides of Demaree Street;
- Install fencing, barricades and signage to channelize pedestrian movements;
- Apply California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, including R8-8 “DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS”, R10-6 “STOP HERE ON RED”, and “RXR” advance warning signs.

The Commission’s Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) staff has investigated the City’s request, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City, SJVR and UPRR are in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, improvements as described in your request, and summarized above, are authorized. All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and the current version of the CA MUTCD, published by the California Department of Transportation. The City and SJVR must complete all the proposed alterations mentioned above for RCEB to consider this GO 88-B application closed.

SJVR must ensure that Emergency Notification Signs are installed to comply with CFR 234.309.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with current version of the CA MUTCD.

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. 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, the RCEB may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, the City 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 Form G page at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/crossings>. This report may be submitted electronically to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

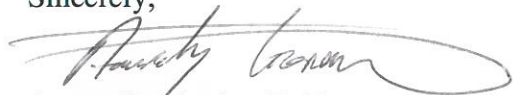
At the conclusion of the project, SJVR should electronically submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the FRA, reflecting the changes. 49 CFR 234 Section 234.409 requires the railroads to submit periodic crossing inventory updates a

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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 Oliver Garcia at oliver.garcia@cpuc.ca.gov or (213) 576-7077.

Sincerely,



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

(SENT VIA E-MAIL)

C: Chris Keckeisen, UPRR
John Mollart, SJVR

