

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



September 20, 2018

File Number: XREQ 2018090002
Houghton Road
Kern County

John Mollart
Regional Signal Manager
San Joaquin Valley Railroad
1166 Oak Ave
Woodland, CA 95695

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Houghton Road At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing Identified as CPUC Crossing No. 103SN-5.10 and DOT Crossing No. 030024V in Unincorporated Kern County.

Dear Mr. Mollart:

This refers to your letter dated August 31, 2018, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Houghton Road at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the San Joaquin Valley Railroad (SJVR) Sunset Subdivision track in unincorporated Kern County (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing Number 103SN-5.10 and DOT Number 030024V.

The crossing is comprised of one track and a two-lane roadway, with one traffic lane in each direction. The crossing is equipped with two Commission Standard 1-R (Crossbuck Sign on a Post) warning devices. Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and BNSF Railway (BNSF) jointly own the right-of-way. Two SJVR freight trains operate per day over this line at a maximum speed of 25 mph. The average daily traffic at the crossing is approximately 575 vehicles.

SJVR, in cooperation with Kern County, proposes alterations as indicated in the request letter and/or shown in the attachments, to include:

- Installation of two Commission Standard 9 (Flashing Light Signal Assembly with Automatic Gate Arm) warning devices, one each on eastbound and westbound approach, with sidelights for westbound traffic;
- Installation of guard rails to protect the gate mechanisms;
- Installation of two solar-powered flashing train-activated advance warning signals, one for each approach;
- Installation of a signal cabinet to control active devices;
- Application of California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings; including W10-1 advance warning signs, "RXR" and railroad limit pavement markings.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request filed by SJVR and finds that it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As SJVR, UPRR, BNSF and the County 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 August 31, 2018, 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 County 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. Refer to CA MUTCD Section 6G.18 and Figure 6H-46 regarding "Work in the Vicinity of a Grade Crossing."

This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental 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 proposed project 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, RCEB may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

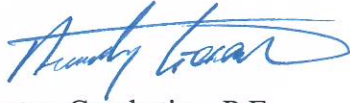
Within 30 days after completion of this project, SJVR shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G titled *Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossings and Separations*. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the CPUC web site 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) 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.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anton Garabetian".

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

cc: **(SENT VIA E-MAIL)**
Craig Pope, Kern County
Erik Lewis, UPRR
Tiera Adams, BNSF
Bree Arnett, CPUC

