

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



October 18, 2018

File Number: XREQ 2018090005
Forni Road
El Dorado County

Dustin Harrington
Senior Civil Engineer
County of El Dorado
2850 Fairlane Court
Placerville, CA 95667

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Forni Road Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 130AH-144.00 and DOT No. 750355V in El Dorado County

Dear Mr. Harrington:

This refers to your letter dated August 31, 2018, received by us on September 14, 2018, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Forni Road at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of Sac-Placerville Joint Powers Authority (RRSPJX) track in the County of El Dorado (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 130AH-144.00 and DOT No. 750355V.

The single track crossing is a two-lane north/south running road equipped with two curb mounted Commission Standard 1-R (crossbuck sign on a post) warning signs. Though there is no rail traffic over the crossing, El Dorado Western Railroad (EDWR) plans to begin service over the crossing with 2 – 4 excursion trains per week in the near future. The RRSPJX owns the track and EDWR will operate over this crossing. Future rail service at this crossing will generally consist of weekend excursion trips at a maximum speed of 15 mph. The average daily traffic on Forni Road is 3,514 vehicles.

This project is part of the County's El Dorado Trail.

The proposed alterations as indicated in the request letter and/or shown in the attachments shall consist of:

- Installing an approximate 10-foot-wide asphalt bike/pedestrian pathway over the tracks on the west side of Forni Road with Commission Standard 1-R warning devices with California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD) R1-1 "STOP" signs on both track approaches;
- Installing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant detectable warning strips on both trail approaches to the track located no closer than 12 feet from the centerline of the track;
- Installing a new striped crosswalk across Forni Road south of the crossing with ADA compliant detectable warning strips on both trail approaches to the roadway;
- Installing High-intensity Activated crossWalk (HAWK) pedestrian hybrid signals in each roadway approach direction at the crossing. The HAWK will be push button activated by trail users. Vehicle stop locations will coincide with crossing STOP bars;

- Installing a CA MUTCD R1-2 “YIELD” on each approach, either mounted below the Commission Standard 1-R warning signs or on a separate post adjacent to the Commission Standard 1-Rs.
- Installing CA MUTCD R10-6 “STOP HERE ON RED” signs at both crossing STOP bar locations; and
- Installing CA MUTCD W3-1 “STOP AHEAD” signs on both pathway approaches and R1-1 “STOP” signs where the path intersects with Forni Road.

The Commission’s Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) staff has investigated the County’s request, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As EDWR and the County are in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, you may proceed with the improvements as described in your request letter, attachments, and summarized above. The County must complete all the proposed alterations mentioned above for RCEB to consider this GO 88-B application closed.

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

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with Section 8A.08, Temporary Traffic Control Zones, of the CA MUTCD, 2014 Edition, published by the California Department of Transportation.

All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and CA MUTCD.

This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended [California Pubic 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.

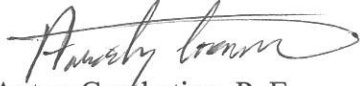
Within 30 days after completion of this project, the County shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the Commission web site Form G page at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Crossings>. This report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

At the conclusion of the project, EDWR should 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.

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XREQ 2018090005
October 18, 2018
Page 3 of 3

If you have any questions, please contact David Stewart at (916) 928-2515 or atm@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)

C: Matt Smeltzer, County of El Dorado
Mary Cory, El Dorado Western Railroad

