

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

320 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 500  
Los Angeles, CA 90013



December 3, 2018

File Number: XREQ 2018110002  
Blanchard 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 Blanchard Road Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 130AH-143.50 and DOT No. 750354N in Unincorporated El Dorado County**

Dear Mr. Harrington:

This refers to your letter dated November 5, 2018, received by us on November 11, 2018, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Blanchard Road at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of Sac-Placerville Joint Powers Authority (RRSPJX) track in unincorporated County of El Dorado (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 130AH-143.50 and DOT No. 750354N.

The single track crossing is equipped with two curb mounted Commission Standard 1-R (crossbuck sign on a post) warning devices. Blanchard Road is a two-lane north/south running road. Though there is currently 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 Blanchard Road is 1,200 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 Blanchard Road with Commission Standard 1-R warning devices and 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 Blanchard Road north of the crossing with ADA compliant detectable warning strips on both trail approaches to the roadway;

- Installing CA MUTCD W3-1 “STOP AHEAD,” W16-7P (arrow), and W11-15 (bicycle/pedestrian) signs on both pathway approaches and R1-1 “STOP” signs where the path intersects with Blanchard Road;
- Installing High-intensity Activated crossWalk (HAWK) pedestrian hybrid signals on each roadway approach to the crossing. The HAWK will be push button activated by trail users. Vehicle stop locations will coincide with current crossing STOP bars;
- Installing a R1-1 “STOP” sign on both roadway Commission Standard 1-R warning devices.

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](mailto: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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If you have any questions, please contact David Stewart at (916) 928-2515 or [atm@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:atm@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anton Garabetian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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

