

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

320 W. 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET, SUITE 500  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90013



December 12, 2018

File Number: XREQ 2018120001  
Shafter Road  
Unincorporated 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 Shafter Road At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing Identified as CPUC Crossing No. 103SN-6.10 and DOT Crossing No. 030026J in Kern County.**

Dear Mr. Mollart:

This refers to your letter dated November 7, 2018, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Shafter Road at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the San Joaquin Valley Railroad (SJVR) Sunset Subdivision tracks in Kern County (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing Number 103SN-6.10 and DOT Number 030026J.

The crossing is comprised of one track and a two-lane roadway, with one traffic lane in each direction. The crossing is adjacent to Shafter Road/Progress Road Drive t-intersection to the east, and 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 railroad right-of-way. Approximately 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 345 vehicles.

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

- Installing one Commission Standard 9 (Flashing Light Signal Assembly with Automatic Gate Arm) warning device on the eastbound approach;
- Installing one Commission Standard 9 warning device on the westbound approach, with an additional pair of flashing lights directed at Progress Road;
- Constructing new guard rails on both approaches as warning device protection;
- Installing a signal cabinet to control active devices;
- Installing two solar powered flashing train-activated W10-1 advance warning signs, one for each approach, approximately 250 feet from the crossing;
- Widening the pavement to construct pull out lanes for eastbound and westbound traffic;

- Installing new concrete panel on each side of crossing to match pull out lanes;
- Applying California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, including lane delineation and relocated stop bars.

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 November 7, 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/General.aspx?id=2878>. This report may be submitted electronically to [rceb@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto: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](mailto:rceb@cpuc.ca.gov).



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If you have any questions, please contact Oliver Garcia at (213) 576-7077 or [ogl@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:ogl@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



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  
Tiera Adams, BNSF  
Peggy Ygbuhay, UPRR  
Bree Arnett, CPUC

