

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



January 17, 2019

File Number: XREQ 2018120018
Poso Avenue
City of Wasco, Kern County

Bruce W. Armistead
Director of Operations and Maintenance
California High Speed Rail Authority
770 L Street, Suite 620
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Poso Avenue At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, Identified as CPUC Crossing No. 002-912.50 and DOT No. 028300V, in the City of Wasco, County of Kern.

Dear Mr. Armistead:

This refers to your letter received by us on December 6, 2018, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Poso Avenue at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the BNSF Railway (BNSF) tracks in the City of Wasco (City), Kern County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 002-912.50 and DOT Crossing No. 028300V.

The crossing is comprised of two tracks through a two-lane roadway, with one traffic lane in each direction. The crossing is equipped with two curb-mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices.

The California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) proposes to grade separate the crossing with an underpass roadway and two bridges for the CHSRA and BNSF tracks. The existing and proposed tracks will remain at the same elevation. The distance between the two track bridges will be 46 feet 6 inches. A proposed shoofly will maintain BNSF rail service during construction of the BNSF tracks bridge. The existing 6th Street at-grade highway-rail crossing, identified as CPUC Crossing No. 002-913.10 and DOT Crossing No. 028302J, located approximately half a mile to the north, will be used to detour traffic during construction, after which, it will be permanently closed.

The underpass Poso Avenue will consist of four 12-foot lanes, two 4.5-foot shoulders, and a 6.5 feet wide pedestrian sidewalk on the south side. From east to west, Poso Avenue will pass below J Street and BNSF and CHSRA tracks bridges.

The new crossing will be identified as CPUC Crossing No. 002-912.40-B for the BNSF tracks, CPUC Crossing No. 135S-279.40-B for the CHSRA tracks and DOT Crossing No. 968541D for BNSF and CHSRA tracks.

The alterations, as indicated in the CHSRA's request letter and/or shown on the plans, shall include:

- Constructing a 100-foot-wide bridge over Poso Avenue to carry two BNSF mainline tracks and future tracks;
- Constructing a 43-foot-wide bridge to carry two CHSRA high-speed rail tracks;
- Constructing 67 feet wide Poso Avenue underpass beneath the two rail bridges; and
- Constructing a temporary shoofly track to maintain BNSF rail service during construction of the BNSF bridge.

The proposed grade separations meet the vertical and horizontal clearance requirements of the Commission's GO 26-D. There are no temporary clearances requested during construction.

This project is statutorily exempt from the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended [California Public Resources Code §21080.13].

The RCEB staff has investigated the request by CHSRA, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City, BNSF, and CHSRA are in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, CHSRA may proceed with the improvements as described in its request letter and attachments, and summarized above.

All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including other Commission General Orders and the latest version of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD). Temporary traffic controls shall be in compliance with the latest version of the CAMUTCD and detour plans as agreed to by the Parties.

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. A written request for a time extension must include concurrence letters by interested 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, the CHSRA 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 CPUC web site at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/crossings/>. This report may be submitted electronically to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

At the conclusion of the project, CHSRA must submit an updated electronic inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the Federal Railroad Administration, reflecting the changes. The Commission requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

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

Sincerely,



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

Cc: Roger Mobley, City of Wasco
Taylor Smith, BNSF

