

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



June 17, 2019

File Number: XREQ 2019060001  
Burke Street  
City of Visalia, County of Tulare

Mike Porter  
Civil Engineer  
City of Visalia Community Development Department  
315 E. Acequia Avenue  
Visalia, CA 93291

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Burke Street At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing Number 103AC-253.50 and DOT Number 750663B in the City of Visalia, County of Tulare**

Dear Mr. Porter:

This refers to your letter, received by us on May 31, 2019, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the Burke Street highway-rail at-grade crossing (crossing) of the San Joaquin Valley Railroad (SJVR) Goshen Subdivision, in the City of Visalia (City), County of Tulare. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 103AC-253.50 and DOT No. 750663B.

The crossing consists of a single track and a north-south roadway with one through lane in each direction. The crossing is equipped with two Commission Standard 1-R (crossbuck sign on a post) warning signs. SJVR operates four freight trains daily over the crossing with a maximum speed of ten miles per hour. The average daily traffic at Burke Street is approximately 1,413 vehicles.

The City proposes the following safety improvements as indicated in the request letter and/or shown in the attachments:

- Install Commission Standard 9-A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning devices at the northwest and southeast quadrants;
- Install one Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) warning device at the southwest quadrant, with back-to-back pairs of flashing lights facing the sidewalk approaches, and an additional flashing light pair directed towards the pedestrian pathway to the west;
- Construct 8-inch-high raised concrete medians, 50 feet in length north and south of the track;
- Install 46-inch-high fencing at the northeast, northwest, and southwest quadrants of the crossing;
- Construct Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sidewalks and install detectable warning tactile strips at all four quadrants of the crossing;

- Install ADA compliant curb ramps at the northeast, northwest, and southwest quadrants of the crossing;
- Apply California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) standard signage and pavement markings.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request by the City of Visalia and finds that it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City and SJVR 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 on May 31, 2019, and summarized above, are authorized. All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission GOs and the current version of CA MUTCD, published by California Department of Transportation. The City must complete all the proposed alterations mentioned above for RCEB to consider this GO 88-B application closed.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with current version of the CA MUTCD.

SJVR must ensure that Emergency Notification Systems signs are installed on new warning devices to comply with CFR 234.309.

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 work is not completed, within three years of the date of this letter. Upon written request to RCEB, 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, the City 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 Separation*. 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](mailto:rceb@cpuc.ca.gov) as outlined on the web page.

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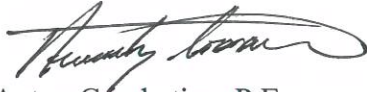
At the conclusion of the project, SJVR should electronically submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the FRA, reflecting the changes. 49 CFR 234 Section 234.409 requires the railroads to submit periodic crossing inventory updates a minimum of once every three years. 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 Matthew Cervantes at (213) 266-4716, or [mci@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:mci@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



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

C: **(SENT VIA EMAIL)**  
**John Mollart, SJVR**  
**Kevin Boles, Xorail**

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