

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



December 3, 2019

File Number: XREQ 2019110005
South Lake Road
Unincorporated Kern County

Jerry Haar
Regional Signal Manager
San Joaquin Valley Railroad
1166 Oak Avenue
Woodland, CA 95695

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the South Lake Road At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing Number 103SN-18.30 and DOT Number 030049R in Kern County

Dear Mr. Haar:

This refers to your letter, received by us on October 24, 2019, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the South Lake Road highway-rail at-grade crossing (crossing) of the San Joaquin Valley Railroad (SJVR) Sunset Subdivision, in unincorporated Kern County (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 103SN-18.30 and DOT No. 030049R.

The crossing consists of a single track and an east-west roadway with one through lane in each direction. South Lake Road contains a horizontal curve immediately west of the crossing. In addition, there is an existing private road approximately 60 feet west of the crossing that runs parallel to the track. The crossing is equipped with two 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. Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and BNSF Railway (BNSF) jointly own the railroad right-of-way. SJVR operates two freight trains daily over the crossing with a maximum speed of 25 miles per hour. The average daily traffic at South Lake Road is approximately 1230 vehicles.

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

- Install two interconnected active advance warning signaling (AAWS) devices for eastbound and westbound vehicular traffic. The flashing lights are to be placed on the W10-1 advance warning sign on each approach and are to activate at the same time as the railroad warning devices
- Install simultaneous warning circuitry for the AAWS
- Install additional set of flashers on the existing warning device in the southwest quadrant directed at the driveway west of the crossing
- Upgrade signal control cabinet

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request 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 on October 24, 2019, and summarized above, are authorized. All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission GOs and the current version of California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD), published by California Department of Transportation. The Railroad 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 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 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.

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.

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If you have any questions, please contact Matthew Cervantes at (213) 266-4716, or mci@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

CC: (SENT VIA EMAIL)
Peggy Ygbuhay, UPRR
Kate Kalinosky, BNSF
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