

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



December 10, 2019

File Number: XREQ 2019110006
Avenue 80
County of Tulare

Reed Schenke, P.E.
Director
Tulare County Resource Management Agency
5961 S. Mooney Boulevard
Visalia, CA 93277

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Avenue 80 At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing Number 001B-269.00 and DOT Number 766046F in Tulare County

Dear Mr. Schenke:

This refers to your letter, received by us on November 1, 2019, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the Avenue 80 highway-rail at-grade crossing (crossing) of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Fresno Subdivision, in unincorporated Tulare County (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001B-269.00 and DOT No. 766046F.

The crossing consists of a single track and an east-west roadway with one through lane in each direction. The crossing is located approximately 80 feet west of the intersection of Avenue 80 and the State Route (SR) 99 off-ramp onto Road 128. The crossing is equipped with two Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices. UPRR operates 14 freight trains daily over the crossing with a maximum speed of 60 miles per hour. The average daily traffic at Avenue 80 is approximately 440 vehicles.

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

- Remove the two existing Commission Standard 9 warning devices at southwest and northeast quadrants of the crossing
- Install one new Commission Standard 9 warning device at the southwest quadrant of the crossing, at a minimum clearance of four feet and three inches from the face of curb to the center of the warning device
- Install one new Commission Standard 9 warning device at the northwest quadrant of the crossing, at a minimum clearance of four feet and three inches from the face of curb to the center of the warning device, with one additional flashing light signal pair directed north at the SR 99 off-ramp
- Reconstruct and resurface the Avenue 80 roadway approximately 300 feet west of the crossing and 100 feet east of the crossing

- Reconstruct approximately 60 feet of asphalt concrete dike in front of warning devices, starting no closer than 10 feet from the track
- Reconstruct existing raised median island east of the crossing
- Replace existing signage, striping, and pavement markings

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request by the County and finds that it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the County and UPRR 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 November 1, 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 County 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. Refer to CA MUTCD Section 6G.18 and Figure 6H-46 regarding "Work in the Vicinity of a Grade Crossing."

UPRR 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.

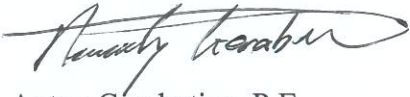
Within 30 days after completion of this project, the County shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G titled *Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossings and Separation*. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the CPUC web site Form G page at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/crossings>. This report may be submitted electronically to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov as outlined on the web page.

At the conclusion of the project, UPRR 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.

Reed Schenke, PE
XREQ 2019110006
December 10, 2019
Page 3 of 3

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

C: **(SENT VIA EMAIL)**
Peggy Ygbuhay, UPRR
Bree Arnett, CPUC
Noemi Rios, Caltrans

