

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



January 8, 2020

File Number: XREQ 2019120001  
Boron Avenue  
Unincorporated Kern County

Yolanda Alcantar  
Public Works Manager  
Kern County Public Works  
2700 M Street, Suite 400  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Boron Avenue At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing Number 002-783.90 and DOT Number 028210W in Unincorporated Kern County**

Dear Ms. Alcantar:

This refers to your letter, received by us on December 5, 2019, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the Boron Avenue highway-rail at-grade crossing (crossing) of the BNSF Railway (BNSF) Mojave Subdivision, in unincorporated Kern County (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 002-783.90 and DOT No. 028210W.

The crossing consists of two mainline tracks and a north-south roadway with one through lane in each direction. The crossing is equipped with two Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices. BNSF operates 30 to 40 freight trains daily over the crossing with a maximum speed of 80 miles per hour. The average daily traffic at Boron Avenue is approximately 1,100 vehicles. The crossing is located approximately 100 feet north of the intersection of Boron Avenue and Jessie Street, and approximately 250 feet south of the intersection of Boron Avenue and Twenty Mule Team Road. Both intersections are stop sign controlled. There are no signalized intersections in the area.

The County proposes the following safety improvements within the BNSF right-of-way (ROW), as indicated in the request letter and/or shown in the attachments:

- Install Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) warning device in southwest quadrant of the crossing, with additional flashing light pair directed at southbound pedestrians; and R15-8 "LOOK" with double-sided arrow sign attached;
- Replace existing Commission Standard 9 warning devices;
- Replace existing railroad bungalow;
- Construct Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sidewalks and install detectable warning tactile strips at the west side of the crossing;
- Construct access driveway BNSF right-of-way along the sidewalk, approximately 40 feet south of the crossing and 50 feet north of the crossing;

- Install steel pipe ADA handrail terminating at the driveways for both northbound and southbound pedestrians on the west side of Boron Ave;
- Install concrete crossing panels to be tied into new sidewalks west of the crossing;
- Install ADA compliant curb ramps at the northwest corner of the intersection of Boron Avenue and Jessie Street;
- Install steel pipe pedestrian barricades on the east side of Boron Avenue north and south 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 County of Boron and finds that it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the County and BNSF 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 December 5, 2019, and summarized above, are authorized.

All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission GOs and the current version of CAMUTCD, 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 the 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."

BNSF 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](mailto:rceb@cpuc.ca.gov) as outlined on the web page.

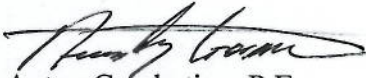
At the conclusion of the project, BNSF should electronically submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the FRA, reflecting the changes. 49 CFR 234 Section 234.409 requires the railroads to submit periodic crossing inventory updates a

Yolanda Alcantar  
XREQ 2019120001  
January 8, 2020  
Page 3 of 3

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).

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)  
Kate Kalinosky, BNSF  
Craig M. Pope, County of Kern

