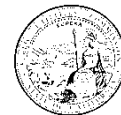


PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



September 9, 2020

File Number: XREQ 2020090006
Bear Mountain Boulevard (SR 223)
City of Arvin, Kern County

Michelle Hernandez
Associate Right of Way Agent
Caltrans
855 "M" Street, Suite 200
Fresno, CA 93721

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Bear Mountain Boulevard (SR 223) At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 103BQ-332.80, DOT No. 029979C, in the City of Arvin, Kern County.

Dear Ms. Hernandez:

This refers to your letter dated September 8, 2020, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission or CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the Bear Mountain Boulevard at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of San Joaquin Valley Railroad (SJVR) Arvin Subdivision in the City of Arvin (City), Kern County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 103BQ-332.80 and DOT No. 029979C.

The crossing consists of a single track and a four lane roadway, and is approximately 20 feet east of the intersection of Bear Mountain Boulevard (SR 223) and Derby Street (Tejon Highway). Bear Mountain Boulevard tapers to two lanes approximately 85 feet east of the crossing. The crossing is equipped with two Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices. Traffic at the intersection is controlled by two-way "STOP" signs in the north/south direction on Derby Street; northbound and southbound traffic must stop and yield to traffic on Bear Mountain Blvd. The average daily vehicle traffic on Bear Mountain Boulevard is 4,900. The track is out of service, but SJVR plans to resume freight service at this crossing with a maximum speed of 10 MPH. Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) is the owner of the right of way.

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in cooperation with SJVR, UPRR, and the City, proposes the following alterations of the crossing as indicated in the request letter and/or shown in the attachments:

- Replace the non-functional Commission Standard 9 warning devices with two new Commission Standard 9 devices.
- Install traffic signals at all four legs of the intersection of Bear Mountain Boulevard and Derby Street, including a pre-signal for westbound traffic at the crossing.

- Interconnect traffic signals with railroad equipment, including advance preemption and advance pedestrian preemption circuitry.
- Install two activated blank out traffic signs to control right turn movements approaching the tracks.
- Install American with Disabilities Act compliant sidewalks with detectable warning on the south side of Bear Mountain Boulevard.
- Apply California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, including R8-8 “DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS”, R10-6 “STOP HERE ON RED”, and “RXR” advance warning signs.

The Commission’s Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) staff has investigated the request from Caltrans, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As Caltrans, the City, SJVR, and UPRR are in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, improvements as described in your request, and summarized above, are authorized. All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and the current version of the CA MUTCD, published by Caltrans. Caltrans and SJVR must complete all the proposed alterations mentioned above for RCEB to consider this GO 88-B application closed.

SJVR must ensure that Emergency Notification Signs are installed to comply with CFR 234.309.

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.”

This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environment 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 this office, 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, the RCEB may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

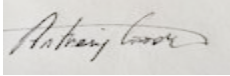
Within 30 days after completion of this project, the City shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G titled Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossings and Separation. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the Commission web 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, 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.

Michelle Hernandez
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September 9, 2020
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If you have any questions, please contact Oliver Garcia at og1@cpuc.ca.gov, or (213) 369-4674.

Sincerely,



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

(SENT VIA E-MAIL)

C: Jerry Haar, SJVR
Peggy Ygbuhay, UPRR
Jeff Jones, City of Arvin