

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

320 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 500  
Los Angeles, CA 90013



April 26, 2021

File Number: XREQ 2021010005  
Hirschdale Road  
County of Nevada

Patrick Perkins, PE  
Project Manager  
County of Nevada  
950 Maidu Avenue  
Nevada City, CA 95959

**SENT VIA E-MAIL**

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Hirschdale Road Grade Separated Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 001A-216.10-A and DOT No. 753190K in the County of Nevada.**

Dear Mr. Perkins:

This refers to your letter, dated January 28, 2020, received by us on January 4, 2021, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Hirschdale Road grade separated highway-rail crossing (crossing) of Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) tracks in the County of Nevada (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001A-216.10-A and DOT No. 753190K.

Hirschdale Road is a one-lane, east/west running road that spans two UPRR tracks over a grade-separated crossing. UPRR runs fifteen freight trains per day at a maximum speed of 40 miles per hour over the crossing. Amtrak runs two passenger trains per day at a maximum speed of 50 miles per hour over the crossing. The average daily traffic on Hirschdale Road is 70 vehicles.

The proposed alterations, as indicated in the County's request letter and/or shown on its plans, shall consist of performing a complete seismic retrofit of the Hirschdale Road bridge structure.

The bridge and its approaches were built in 1926 with 21 foot 5 ½ inches fixed clearance above the top of the rails. The County indicates that the vertical clearance of 21 feet 5 ½ inches for UPRR Mainline 1 track cannot be corrected and requests that it be allowed to persist. GO 26-D requires an overhead clearance of 22 feet 6 inches but Section 15 allows the Commission to consider requests for continuance of impaired clearances already existing and lawful at the time the GO was adopted.

Pursuant to Commission Resolution SX-143, dated April 15, 2021, and Section 15 and Subsection 16.2 of GO 26-D, the County is granted a deviation from GO 26-D, Section 2.1 and is authorized a vertical clearance of not less than 21 feet 5 ½ inches from the top of rail until such time as the Hirschdale Road overhead structure is reconstructed to allow the clearance to be brought to the current vertical-clearance standard.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request by the County and finds it adequately addresses public safety. As the County and UPRR agree as to the

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design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, the County may proceed with the alternations as described in its request letter and attachments and summarized above. The County must complete all the proposed alterations mentioned above for RCEB to consider this GO 88-B application closed.

The County shall provide temporary traffic controls in compliance with Section 8A.08, Temporary Traffic Control Zones, of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD), published by California Department of Transportation.

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

This project is statutorily exempt from the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended [California Public Resources Code 21080.13].

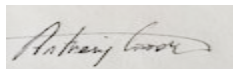
This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within three years of the date of this letter. Upon written request to RCEB, the time to complete the project may be extended. Any written request for a time extension must include concurrence 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. Form G requirements can be obtained at the Commission website at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Crossings>. This report may be submitted electronically to [rceb@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:rceb@cpuc.ca.gov).

At the conclusion of the project, UPRR must submit an updated electronic inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the Federal Railroad Administration, reflecting the changes. The 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 David Stewart at (916) 928-2515 or [atm@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:atm@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



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

cc Peggy Ygbuhay, UPRR