

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



June 13, 2022

File Number: XREQ 2022050001  
State Route 46  
City of Wasco, Kern County

Bruce Armistead  
Director of Operations and Maintenance  
California High Speed Rail Authority  
770 L Street  
Sacramento CA 95814

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the State Route 46 Grade-Separated Rail Crossing**

Dear Bruce Armistead:

This refers to your letter dated May 9, 2022, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the State Route 46 (SR-46) grade-separated rail crossing of the BNSF Railway (BNSF) tracks, in the City of Wasco (City), County of Kern. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing Number 002-913.50-B and DOT Number 028304X.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) reviewed the request by the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA). As the City, CHSRA and BNSF agree on the alterations and apportionment of cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, the following alterations as described and specified in the request letter and its attachments are authorized:

- Replace the existing BNSF rail bridge with a larger structure that can accommodate four tracks with the potential of being expanded to accommodate a fifth track.
- Construct a new CHSRA rail bridge above SR-46.
- Widen the SR-46 roadway to accommodate two vehicular lanes in each direction and pedestrian sidewalks.

The project proposes a minimum permanent vertical clearance of 16 feet 6 inches under the HST rail bridge structure. No temporary clearance reductions are requested during construction. All proposed clearances comply with minimum clearance requirements specified in Commission GO 26-D.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD), published by the California Department of Transportation. All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and CA MUTCD.

This authorization shall expire if the full scope of alterations is not complete within three years of the date of this letter. Authorization may be revoked or modified if public convenience, necessity, or safety so requires. CHSRA may request time extension to complete the project in writing to RCEB at least 30 days prior to the expiration date. The time extension request shall include evidence of agreement by involved parties.

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

The following requirements pertain to this authorization:

- Within 30 days after the authorized scope of alterations is complete, City, CHSRA and/or BNSF shall notify RCEB of the alterations by submitting a Form G to [rceb@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:rceb@cpuc.ca.gov). Form G requirements and forms are available on the CPUC web site Form G page at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/crossings>.
- BNSF shall electronically submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the FRA per 49 C.F.R. § 234.411(c).

If you have any questions, please contact Oliver Garcia at (213) 369-4674 or [oliver.garcia@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:oliver.garcia@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



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

cc: **(SENT VIA EMAIL)**  
Emad Abi-Rached, Caltrans  
Dionisio Martinez, BNSF  
Luis Villa, City of Wasco