

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



February 5, 2024

File Number: XREQ 2023100010
Avenue 144
Unincorporated Tulare CountyBruce Armistead
Chief of Rail and Operations Delivery
California High-Speed Rail Authority
770 L Street, Suite 620
Sacramento, CA 95814**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Avenue 144 Rail Crossing**

Dear Bruce Armistead:

This refers to your letter dated December 27, 2023, received by us on January 23, 2024, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Avenue 144 rail crossing (crossing) of the BNSF Railway (BNSF) track, in the unincorporated area of Tulare County (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing Number 002-947.00 and DOT Number 028329T.

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) requests a temporary re-configuration of the crossing adjacent roadway intersection of Avenue 144 and California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) State Route 43 (SR 43).

The crossing is an east-west, two-lane roadway that consists of one track. The crossing is equipped with two shoulder-mounted Commission Standard 9 (Flashing Light Signal Assembly with Automatic Gate Arm) warning devices.

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

Phase 1:

- Temporarily re-align the roadway east of Avenue 144 rail crossing to connect with SR-43 to allow the crossing to be opened to the public during construction of CHSRA's project.
- Adjust the westbound Commission Standard 9 warning device's flashing light signal assembly to face the re-aligned roadway.
- Install channelizers along the re-aligned roadway segments.
- Apply California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, including the W10-1 sign and RXR regulatory signs.

Phase 2:

- Reconstruct the grade crossing and adjacent intersection to its original and permanent condition upon completion of CHSRA's project.

- Adjust the westbound Commission Standard 9 warning device's flashing light signal assembly to face the original roadway alignment.
- Reapply CA MUTCD compliant signage and pavement markings, including the W10-1 sign and RXR regulatory signs to their permanent locations.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with the CA MUTCD, published by Caltrans. 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. CHSRA may request a time extension at least 30 days prior to the expiration date. The time extension request shall include evidence of agreement by involved parties. This authorization may be revoked or modified if public convenience, necessity, or safety requires.

This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended. [California Public Resources Code §21084].

The following requirements pertain to this authorization:

- The crossing shall have the configuration and operational characteristics as described and specified in the request letter and its attachments.
- Within 30 days after the authorized scope of alterations is completed **for each phase of work**, CHSRA shall notify RCEB of the alterations by submitting a Form G to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov. Form G requirements and forms are available on the CPUC web site at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/crossings>.

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

Sincerely,



Matthew Bond, PE
Program and Project Supervisor
Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch
Rail Safety Division

cc: Dionisio Martinez, BNSF
Shelley Maggard, Caltrans
Reed Schenke, County of Tulare