

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



May 17, 2024

File Number: XREQ 2024040004
Claribel Road
Unincorporated Stanislaus County

David Leamon
Director of Public Works
County of Stanislaus
1716 Morgan Road
Modesto, CA 95358

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Grade Separate the Claribel Road Rail Crossing

Dear David Leamon:

This refers to your letter dated April 18, 2024, received by us on April 18, 2024, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to grade separate the Claribel Road at-grade rail crossing of the BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) track, in unincorporated Stanislaus County (County).

The at-grade crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing Number 002-1094.50 and DOT Number 028755B. The grade-separated crossing will be identified as CPUC Crossing Number 002-1094.57-A and DOT Number 980815E.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) reviewed the request by the County of Stanislaus. As the County 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:

- Construct a 48-foot-wide roadway consisting of two lanes and two five-foot wide sidewalks above the tracks.

The project proposes a minimum permanent vertical clearance of 24 feet 6 inches from the top of rail and a permanent horizontal clearance of 53 feet 2 inches from the centerline of the nearest track to the abutment. No temporary clearance reductions are requested during construction. All proposed permanent 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 the CA MUTCD.

This authorization shall expire if the full scope of alterations is not complete within three years of the date of this letter. The County 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 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:

- The crossing configuration and operational characteristics at each stage during construction shall be altered as described and specified in the request letter and the staging plan attachments.
- The at-grade crossing shall be eliminated by removing all pavement approaches, crossing surface, railroad signal equipment, traffic control devices and railroad warning devices upon the completion of grade-separated crossing.
- Within 30 days after the authorized scope of alterations is complete, the County 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>.
- 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 Pablo Vargas at (916) 532-8807 or pablo.vargas@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew Bond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matthew" and the last name "Bond" clearly distinguishable.

Matthew Bond, P.E.
Program and Project Supervisor
Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch
Rail Safety Division

cc: Dionisio Martinez, BNSF