

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



October 14, 2024

File Number: XREQ 20240900010
Zeering Road
Unincorporated Stanislaus CountyDionisio Martinez
Manager Public Projects
BNSF Railway Company
740 East Carnegie Drive
San Bernardino CA 92408**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Zeering Road Rail Crossing**

Dear Dionisio Martinez:

This refers to your letter dated June 27, 2024, received by us on September 18, 2024, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Zeering Road rail crossing (crossing) of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad (BNSF) tracks, in unincorporated County of Stanislaus (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing Number 002-1079.70 and DOT Number 028726R.

The crossing is an east-west, two-lane roadway that consists of three tracks. The crossing is equipped with two curb-mounted Commission Standard 9 (Flashing Light Signal Assembly with Automatic Gate Arm) warning devices and one curb-mounted Commission Standard 8 (Flashing Light Signal Assembly) warning device.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) reviewed the request by BNSF. As the County, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and Amtrak 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:

- Replace the Commission Standard 9 warning device on the southwest quadrant with one new Commission Standard 9 warning device.
- Construct Americans with Disabilities Act compliant sidewalk on southeast and southwest quadrants of the crossing.
- Remove the third track on the west side of the crossing and realign the second track.
- Widen the crossing by installing additional concrete panels on the east track.
- Re-construct the roadway to reduce the approach grade at the crossing.
- Apply California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, including R8-8 "DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS", W10-5 "LOW GROUND CLEARANCE", and W10-11a "75 FEET BETWEEN TRACKS & HIGHWAY" regulatory signs.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with the 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. BNSF 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 complete, BNSF 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,



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

cc: Cassim Mamoon, Amtrak
Betty Miller, Caltrans
Andrew Malizia, Stanislaus County