

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102



September 5, 2024

File Number: XREQ 20240900001
Casa Loma Drive
Unincorporated Kern CountyKristy Whitton-Hoover
PW Manager – Right of Way
Kern County Public Works
2700 “M” Street Suite 400
Bakersfield, CA 93301**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Casa Loma Drive Rail Crossing**

Dear Kristy Whitton-Hoover:

This refers to your letter received by us on August 6, 2024, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Casa Loma Drive rail crossing (crossing) of the San Joaquin Valley Railroad (SJVR) track(s), in unincorporated Kern County (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing Number 103BT-316.60 and DOT Number 750994N.

The crossing is an east-west, two-lane roadway that consists of one track. The crossing is equipped with two curb-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 County. As the County and SJVR 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:

- Remove existing Commission Standard 9 on northeast quadrant.
- Install one (1) new Commission Standard 9 on the northeast quadrant at standard setbacks.
- Extend gate arm on existing Commission Standard 9 in the southwest quadrant to accommodate the lane shift.
- Install ADA compliant sidewalk on north side of the roadway. Sidewalk will include tactile strips, and channelization (handrail) to keep pedestrians on the sidewalk.
- Install additional concrete panel crossing surface to accommodate the new sidewalk.
- Install new curb and gutter on the north side of the roadway.
- Install fencing on the north side of the roadway and maintenance access gate in the northeast quadrant of the grade crossing to limit dumping and illegal vehicle access.
- Eliminate the westbound left turn pocket. Traffic signals for eastbound and westbound approaches shall be exclusive split phases.
- Apply California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD)-compliant signage and pavement markings, including modified W10-2, modified W10-11A, W10-12 signs, R8-8 signs, R15-8 signs, and “KEEP CLEAR” pavement markings.

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. 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 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, 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>.
- SJVR 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.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Jerry Haar, SJVR
Kenneth Tom, UPRR