

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



March 26, 2025

File Number: XREQ 20250300002

Olive Avenue

Unincorporated Merced County

Nathan Bray
Director of Public Works
County of Merced
715 Martin Luther King Jr.
Merced CA 95341

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Olive Avenue Rail Crossing

Dear Nathan Bray:

This refers to your letter dated January 7, 2025, received by us on March 3, 2025, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Olive Avenue rail crossing (crossing) of the BNSF Railway (BNSF) track, in Unincorporated County of Merced (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing Number 002-1066.50 and DOT Number 028708T.

The crossing is a southwest-northeast, 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 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:

- Re-construct the roadway to reduce approach grade at the crossing.
- Remove the existing guard rail around the existing railroad warning devices and replace with six inch high HMA AC dikes.
- Install street lighting 50 feet from both sides of the railroad crossing.
- Apply California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD)-compliant signage and pavement markings, including W10-5 "Low Ground Clearance", modified R13A(CA) "TRUCKS OVER 45 FT NO RIGHT TURN", and W10-11a "50 FEET BETWEEN TRACKS & HIGHWAY" warning 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. The County of Merced 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, 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, PE, TE
Program and Project Supervisor
Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch
Rail Safety Division

cc: Dionisio Martinez, BNSF
Carlos Ruiz, Caltrans
Bree Arnett, CPUC
Matthew Cervantes, CPUC