

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

300 Capitol Mall, Suite 400, Sacramento, CA 95814



May 21, 2025

File Number: XREQ 20250400007

Road 26

Madera County

James A. Labanowski
Supervising Transportation Engineer
California High-Speed Rail Authority
770 L Street, Suite 620
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Grade Separate the Road 26 Rail Crossing

Dear James A. Labanowski:

This refers to your letter dated March 2025, received by us on April 16, 2025, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to grade separate the Road 26 at-grade rail crossing (crossing) of the BNSF Railway (BNSF) track, in the County of Madera (County).

The at-grade crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing Number. 002-1024.00 and DOT Number 028620V. The grade-separated crossing will be identified as CPUC Crossing Number 002-1023.92-A, 135S-166.26-A and DOT Number 968516V.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) reviewed the request by the California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA). As the County, CHSRA, 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 636-foot roadway bridge consisting of four lanes and one 5-foot-wide sidewalk above the tracks.
- Construct pier protection on each side of the BNSF track.
- Install two CHSRA tracks southwest of the BNSF track.
- Install a continuous Access Restricted (AR) fence or barrier. The AR fence will be 8 foot high and consist of welded wire mesh.

The project proposes a minimum permanent vertical clearance of 26 feet 5 inches from the top of rail and a permanent horizontal clearance of 10 feet 8 inches from the centerline of the nearest track to the OCS Pole. 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 CA MUTCD.

This authorization shall expire if the full scope of alterations is not complete within six 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 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, 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>.
- 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, PE, TE
Program and Project Supervisor
Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch
Rail Safety Division

cc: Dionisio Martinez, BNSF
Ahmad Alkhayyat, County of Madera