

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



November 4, 2025

File Number: XREQ 20251000004
Beech Avenue
City of Shafter, Kern CountyMichael James
Public Works Director
City of Shafter
720 Commerce Way
Shafter, CA 93263**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Beech Avenue Rail Crossing**

Dear Michael James:

This refers to your letter dated September 19, 2025, received by us on October 22, 2025, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Beech Avenue rail crossing (crossing) of the BNSF Railway (BNSF) tracks, in the City of Shafter (City), County of Kern. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing Number 002-904.40 and DOT Number 028386G.

The crossing is a northeast-southwest, two-lane roadway that consists of four tracks. The crossing is equipped with one Commission Standard 9-A (Flashing Light Signal Assembly with Automatic Gate Arm and Additional Flashing Light Signals over the Roadway on a Cantilevered Arm) warning device and one Commission Standard 9 (Flashing Light Signal Assembly with Automatic Gate Arm) warning device.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) reviewed the request by the City. As the City, Caltrans 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 roundabout with center island southwest of the crossing.
- Close the Beech Avenue crossing by removing the existing warning devices, crossing surface, and pavement approaching the crossing.
- Remove all existing railroad crossing related signs and pavement markings on approaches to the crossing.
- Install barricades and barrier system outside railroad right-of-way to close off the Beech Avenue crossing.

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 three years of the date of this letter. The City of Shafter 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 at-grade crossing shall be permanently closed and removed. Should the City wish to re-open the crossing, it shall only be opened as a grade-separated crossing.
- Within 30 days after the authorized scope of alterations is complete, City 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 Oliver Garcia at (213) 369-4674 or Oliver.Garcia@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Matthew Bond, PE, TE
Program and Project Supervisor
Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch
Rail Safety Division

cc: Dionisio Martinez, BNSF
Victor Aldama, Caltrans
Robert Martinez-Witrago, Caltrans