

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

320 WEST 4TH STREET, SUITE 500, LOS ANGELES, CA 90013



April 14, 2026

ENVR 20260400008

Ryan Fowler
Planning Manager
City of Menifee
29844 Huan Road
Menifee, CA 92586

Re: Addendum to the Menifee Valley Specific Plan EIR [SCH 2022030233](#) – *Notice of Determination (NOD)*

Dear Ryan Fowler,

The California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) has jurisdiction over rail crossings (crossings) in California. The CPUC ensures that crossings are safely designed, constructed, and maintained. The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Branch (RCEB) is in receipt of the *Notice of Determination (NOD)* for the Addendum to the Menifee Valley Specific Plan EIR. The city of Menifee (City) is the lead agency.

The project site is located west of Briggs Road, north of Matthews Road, east of Menifee Road, and south of McLaughlin Road within the City of Menifee, Accessors Parcel No.: 331-290-008. The Project proposes a master planned community comprised of residential neighborhoods, an elementary school site, and a sports park. As well as a subdivision of 448 single-family residential lots. The subdivision also created various open space lots, including lots for landscaping, trails, future residential development.

The Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway [San Jacinto subdivision](#), which is now owned and maintained by the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), parallels the south side of Matthews Road. The tracks and rail service is currently out of service between just [east of Watson Rd](#) and the [terminus in the City of San Jacinto](#) and tracks are disconnected at various locations along the corridor. Although rail service is inactive and the tracks are currently disconnected in the roadways, RCTC has the right to reconstruct and resume rail service through the entire corridor at any time. The project site sits adjacent to the [Menifee Rd](#) at-grade highway-rail crossing (DOT# 027358A, CPUC# 002X-24.50) and the [Briggs Road](#) at-grade highway-rail crossing (DOT# 027359G, CPUC# 002X-25.80), both of which have the tracks and warning devices removed at the crossings, but is still considered an "open" crossing with the tracks removed and out of service.

The Project mentions the potential installation of a future non-vehicular bridge across Matthews Rd and railroad tracks to connect the Project with the Heritage Lakes Community south of the railroad corridor. Further review of the [Menifee Valley Specific Plan](#), shows that a Class I bike trail is also proposed along the railroad corridor (Figure 3-7).

Though there is no rail service along the corridor, as noted above, the railroad is still considered an "active" corridor and as such, any new proposed crossing, either at-grade or grade separated will require authorization from the CPUC through a [formal application](#). This applies to the potential future non-vehicular bridge that is being considered for the Project. The City and developer should coordinate with RCTC for the design of the crossing to ensure that it meets the minimum horizontal and vertical

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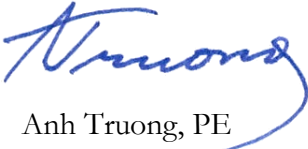
clearance requirements per [CPUC General Order 26](#) for any future reconstruction/addition of tracks in the corridor. Trespass mitigations should also be provided along the south side of Matthews Road to prevent vehicles from parking on the railroad corridor and to keep future users of the Class I bike trail from trespassing onto the railroad corridor.

Any proposed new crossing construction project must also conform to the goals of the CPUC's Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan. This includes improving safety and access to transportation, improving local air quality and public health, and expanding outreach and public participation opportunities in disadvantaged communities. For more information, please visit <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/esjactionplan>.

RCEB staff is available to discuss any potential safety impacts or concerns at the crossings and address any questions from the City.

If you have any questions, please contact Sergio Licon at (213) 503-4866, or sergio.licon@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Anh Truong, PE
Senior Utilities Engineer (Supervisor)
Rail Crossings Engineering Branch
Rail Safety Division

cc: State Clearinghouse, state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov
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