STATE OF CALIFORNIA GAVIN NEWSOM, *Governor*

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

September 12, 2025 ENVR 20250900003

Veronica Martinez
City of Bakersfield
1715 Chester Ave
Bakersfield, CA 93301

**Re: PP-TCTM-25-0001 - VTTM 7500 SCH 2025081032 — *Notice of Determination***

Dear Veronica Martinez,

The California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) has regulatory jurisdiction over rail crossings (crossings) in California. 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)* of a project described in part as *"Proposed Vesting Tentative Tract Map for 208 Single-Family Residential Lots"*. The City of Bakersfield (City) is the lead agency.

The City proposes development on the east side immediately adjacent to the San Joaquin Valley Railroad (SJVR) Sunset Subdivision tracks, consisting of 208 single-family residential lots, 1 sump lot, and 4 landscape lots on 39.92 acres, zoned R-1 (Single-Unit Dwelling). It includes a request for alternate lot and street design, and to waive mineral rights signatures. It is adjacent to the McCutchen Road at-grade highway railroad crossing (CPUC # 103SN-2.10, DOT # 030019Y).

Given the multi-home residential development of the land, pedestrian and vehicular activity in the vicinity of this crossing and track can be expected to increase. The project team should investigate the impact of increased vehicular and pedestrian traffic on the McCutchen Road crossing and any necessary measures to mitigate this increase, such as but not limited to railroad-activated warning device assemblies, vehicle-channelizing median curbs, pedestrian sidewalks, lighting, and trespass-preventive fencing. These improvements can be accomplished through a capital project funded by the City or a condition of approval for the development and should also bring the crossing up to current standards and in compliance with ADA requirements.

Any proposed crossing improvement project will require authorization from the CPUC through General Order 88-B and 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 Oliver Garcia at (213) 369-4674, or oliver.garcia@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Anh Truong, P.E.
Senior Utilities Engineer (Supervisor)
Rail Crossings Engineering Branch
Rail Safety Division

cc: State Clearinghouse, state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov
Jerry Haar, San Joaquin Valley Railroad, Jerry.Haar@gwrr.com
Isabella Herrera, McIntosh & Associates, iherrera@mcintoshassoc.com