

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Rail Safety and Carriers Division  
Rail Engineering Safety Branch  
Traffic Engineering Section

RESOLUTION SX-14  
Date January 7, 1998

**R E S O L U T I O N**

RESOLUTION SX-14 AUTHORIZING SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT BOARD (MTDB) TO DEVIATE FROM THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 7.8 OF GENERAL ORDER 75-C BY MODIFYING THE SOUNDING OF BELLS ON GRADE CROSSING PROTECTION DEVICES EQUIPPED WITH GATES ON THE NORTH-SOUTH LINE, IN THE CITIES OF SAN DIEGO AND SAN YSIDRO, SAN DIEGO COUNTY.

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**SUMMARY**

San Diego Metropolitan Transit Development Board (MTDB), by letter dated August 11, 1997, has requested authorization for five crossings, "J" Street, "L" Street, 27th Street, East Park, and West Park on the North-South Line, to deviate from the provisions of Section 7.8 of General Order 75-C, which requires the constant ringing of bells at railroad/highway grade crossings when the gates are activated by passing trains. Specifically, MTDB has requested permission to have the bells remain silent while the gates are in the down position to avoid the annoyance of continuously ringing bells in the residential and suburban commercial areas served by the North-South Line.

**DISCUSSION**

MTDB proposes to modify the grade crossing protection devices so that the bells will sound only during the initial warning and descent stages until the gates are within ten degrees of the horizontal down position. However, the flashing red lights will continue to provide the necessary warning aspect while the gates are down and the bells are silent, thus assuring that the necessary vehicle safety is maintained.

Upon review of factual material previously submitted by MTDB, as well as an on site inspection of each crossing, the Rail Safety And Carriers Division staff is in agreement with MTDB's proposal to modify the bells at 27th Street, East Park, and West Park crossings only. Although "J" and "L" Streets crossings in the City of Chula Vista are within close proximity to residential housing, the staff is of the opinion that a deviation from Section 7.8 of General Order (GO) 75-C is not warranted at this time.

Rail Safety And Carriers Division staff concludes that MTDB's proposal is a safe and reasonable alternative to the requirements for continuously ringing bells at 27th Street, East Park, and West Park crossings. Also, there is a precedence for this request in that the Commission has previously granted a similar exemption to MTDB in Resolution No. SR-4, dated May 10, 1989.

#### PROTESTS

There are no protests at this time. All agencies contacted by the staff expressed support for the proposal.

#### FINDINGS

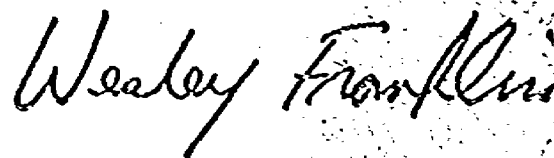
1. MTDB requests authority to deviate from the provisions of Section 7.8 of General Order 75-C by modifying the sounding of bells at five at-grade crossings on the North-South Line equipped with gates in the Cities of Chula Vista, San Diego, and San Ysidro.
2. Staff has reviewed MTDB's proposal and finds that request has merit and should be granted for 27th Street, East Park, and West Park crossings only.

#### THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

San Diego Metropolitan Transit Development Board (MTDB) be granted authority to deviate from Section 7.8 of General Order 75-C so that the sounding of the bells occurs only during the initial warning and descent stage until the gates are within ten degrees of the horizontal position for grade crossing protection devices located at 27th Street, East Park, and West Park, in the Cities of San Diego and San Ysidro.

This resolution is effective today.

I hereby certify that this resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular conference on January 7, 1998. The following Commissioners approved it:



WESLEY M. FRANKLIN  
Executive Director

P. Gregory Conlon  
President  
Jessie J. Knight, Jr.  
Henry M. Duque  
Josiah L. Neeper  
Richard A. Bilas  
Commissioners