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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

515 L Street, Suite 1119
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March 29, 2010

File Number: G.10-01-003
City of San Diego, County of San Diego

Frank Gaines
Project Manager
City of San Diego
225 Broadway Suite 1100
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Modify the Laurel Street Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 002-266.60 in the City of San Diego, San Diego County.

Dear Mr. Gaines:

This refers to your letter, dated January 8, 2010, requesting authorization, pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the existing at-grade crossing of the North County Transit District (NCTD) tracks and Laurel Street in the City of San Diego, San Diego County. The crossing is identified by CPUC Crossing Number 002-266.60. The initial GO 88-B requests submitted on behalf of the City did not clearly describe all the proposed modifications at the crossings. On February 4, 2010, a revised set of GO 88-B requests were submitted that included additional detail of the proposed alterations and revised engineering plans.

This crossing is over two mainline NCTD tracks. In addition to NCTD trains, the BNSF Railway (BNSF) and the National Passenger Railroad Corporation (Amtrak) operate freight and Amtrak passenger trains over this line respectively. The proposed improvements are part of the downtown San Diego Quiet Zone (Q.0612001).

The City proposes the following alterations:

- Extend the existing raised medians and install a painted median over the tracks.
- Curb realignment on the northwest corner of crossing at Laurel Street and California Street.
- Install CALTRANS Standard channelizers on California Street to separate the road from the tracks.
- Install a traffic signal at Laurel Street and California Street that functions as a queue-cutter for westbound and eastbound traffic.
- Install two Commission Standard 9E warning devices (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate installed on the departure side of the at-grade crossing, also known as an exit gate) at the northwest and southeast quadrants of the crossing along with vehicle presence detection.
- Remove the existing Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) warning devices at the northwest and southeast quadrants of the crossing.

- Remove the existing Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate) warning devices on California Street.
- Install Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant detectable warning tactile strips on all sidewalk approaches.
- Install MUTCD compliant signage including W10-9 “NO TRAIN HORN” signs.
- Application of MUTCD compliant pavement markings and renewed MUTCD signage;

The Commission’s Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request filed by the City, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City and NCTD, BNSF, and Amtrak are all in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, the improvements as described in your request dated February 4 2010 and summarized above are authorized.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with Section 8A.05, Temporary Traffic Control Zones, of 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 the CA MUTCD.

This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended. [California Pubic Resources Code 21084].

This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within two years of the date of this letter. Upon written request to this office, the time to complete the project may be extended. Any written request for a time extension must include concurrence letters by involved parties in support of the time extension. If an extension is requested, RCES may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, NCTD shall notify RCES that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G titled *Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossings and Separations*. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the CPUC web site Form G page at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/formg>. This report may be submitted electronically to rces@cpuc.ca.gov as outlined on the web page.

If you have any questions, please contact Laurence Michael at (213) 576-7076 or ldi@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daren Gilbert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "G".

Daren Gilbert, Supervisor
Rail Crossings Engineering Section
Consumer Protection and Safety Division

C: John Shurson, BNSF
John Eschenbach, Amtrak

Keith Kranda, NCTD