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## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

515 L Street, Suite 1119  
Sacramento, CA 95814



March 29, 2010

File Number: G.10-01-014  
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 Fifth Avenue Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 002-268.50 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 Fifth Avenue in the City of San Diego, San Diego County. The crossing is identified by CPUC Crossing Number 002-268.50. 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 one mainline BNSF Railway (BNSF) track, and two San Diego Metropolitan Transit Systems (MTS) tracks. In addition to BNSF and MTS trains, the North County Transit District (NCTD) and the National Passenger Railroad Corporation (Amtrak) operate passenger trains over this line. The proposed improvements are part of the downtown San Diego Quiet Zone (Q.0612001).

The City proposes the following alterations

- Install new short raised medians on both approaches to the crossing per plan.
- Install a painted median along with hatch marks between the tracks.
- Install CALTRANS Standard channelizers between the MTS and BNSF tracks.
- Curb realignment at the south side of the crossing.
- Install a southbound pre-signal on Fifth Avenue.
- Install pedestrian barricades at the existing pedestrian path to prevent pedestrians from cutting across Fifth Avenue.
- Install R3-1 train activated "NO RIGHT TURN" blank out signs for northbound Harbor Drive traffic.
- Install one Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) warning device at the pedestrian path that runs adjacent to the tracks.

- Relocate the existing Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate) north and south median mounted warning devices.
- Relocate the existing Commission Standard 9 warning device at southeast quadrant.
- Install a Commission Standard 9E (Commission Standard 9 installed on the departure side of the at-grade crossing, also known as an exit gate) warning device at the northeast and southwest quadrants of the crossing along with vehicle presence detection system.
- Modify the existing Commission Standard 9A (Commission Standard 9 with additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning device at the northwest quadrant of the crossing by replacing the gate arm with a shorter arm and removing the railroad cantilever.
- 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

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, NCTD, MTS, 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 Public 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, BNSF 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](mailto: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](mailto: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, prominent "D" and "G".

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

C: John Shurson, BNSF  
Wayne Terry, MTS

Keith Kranda, NCTD  
John Eschenbach, Amtrak